

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 608

(Senator Garagiola, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Ways and Means

Education - Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship -
Extension

This bill extends the deadline for awarding an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship from June 30, 2012 to June 30, 2016. The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) may continue to renew the scholarships after the June 30, 2016 deadline for individuals who received initial scholarships before the deadline.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program would continue for additional years and would depend on the amount provided in the State budget for the scholarships.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: OSFA may not award an initial Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship after June 30, 2012. The scholarships may, however, be renewed for individuals who received initial awards prior to June 30, 2012.

Background: The Veterans Advocacy and Education Act of 2006 (Chapter 290) established the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program to provide postsecondary education scholarships to veterans returning from Iraq and

Afghanistan. Scholarships may be awarded for five years of full-time study or eight years of part-time study. Funding is as provided in the State budget. In fiscal 2008, 126 veterans are receiving scholarships totaling approximately \$600,000 through the program. The proposed fiscal 2009 State budget includes \$750,000 for the program, and OSFA estimates that about 155 veterans will receive the scholarships.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Morgan State University, University System of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2008
mll/rhh

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