

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 107
Ways and Means

(Delegate Rosenberg, *et al.*)

Higher Education - Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship
Program - Scholarship Amount

This bill establishes that a scholarship award under the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service Internship Scholarship Program must be at least \$2,000 and no more than \$3,000, subject to the availability of funds. Under current law, a scholarship must be \$3,000, subject to the availability of funds.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Establishing minimum and maximum scholarship award amounts for the Sondheim scholarship does not affect the amount of funds appropriated for the program; thus, expenditures are not affected. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 490 of 2007 established the Walter Sondheim Jr. Public Service *Summer* Internship Scholarship Program to assist college and graduate students with exploring public service career opportunities through summer internships. Chapter 397 of 2015 expanded the Sondheim scholarship from a summer program to include fall and spring internships and renamed it accordingly. Priority for participation in the program must be given to eligible students who (1) are residents of the State; (2) have

demonstrated interest in careers in public service; and (3) assist in providing legal services to low-income State residents, social work services to low-income State residents, nursing services in nursing shortage areas, or other services in the public or nonprofit sectors in which there is a shortage of qualified practitioners for low-income or underserved residents or areas of the State.

The Shriver Center at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) administers the program and serves as a clearinghouse for public and nonprofit entities that wish to hire interns from the program. The Shriver Center may award scholarships for \$3,000 under the program each year, subject to the availability of funds. The program is supported with State general fund appropriations to UMBC.

When it was a summer program, approximately 45 students a summer (out of approximately 300 eligible applicants) received awards. The Shriver Center advises that, in the fall and spring, students are not able to intern for as many hours as the students in the summer (who are at their internships full time). Therefore, the center would like to be able to offer a lower stipend during the fall and spring semesters when students attend classes and work at the internship fewer hours.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University of Maryland Baltimore County, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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kb/rhh

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