

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1237 (Delegate Rosenberg)
Appropriations

Maryland Technology Internship Program - Qualifications for Participation -
Alteration

This bill decreases the cumulative grade point average (GPA) required to participate in the Maryland Technology Internship Program from 3.0 to 2.0. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Expanding *eligibility* for the internship program does not require additional spending. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/ Background: Chapter 642 of 2014 created the Maryland Technology Internship Program to increase student understanding of employment opportunities in the State and foster business retention and development, job creation, workforce development, and new investment in the State. The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Commerce must collaborate to utilize an Internet site through which (1) students may learn about technology-based businesses and internship opportunities and (2) technology-based businesses may register, post information about internship opportunities, and apply for reimbursement of internship stipends.

The Governor must include in the State budget funds for the reimbursement of the stipends and for UMBC to administer the program. Money awarded may be used to reimburse a technology-based business up to 50% of a stipend paid to an intern, up to \$3,000 annually for each intern. UMBC advises that \$340,000 is in the budget for the Maryland Technology Internship Program.

UMBC and Commerce must also (1) develop application and registration requirements; (2) develop orientation and training programs for program participants; (3) review applications and award reimbursements of internship stipends; (4) provide opportunities for students to meet entrepreneurs, visit technology-related industry incubators, and learn about starting a business in the State; (5) provide recruitment and training opportunities and support for participating businesses; and (6) track and assess program outcomes.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility requirements for individuals generally focus on in-state or out-of-state enrollment in an institution of higher education, GPA, and history of military service. Eligible individuals must commit to working a minimum of 120 hours during a spring, fall, or summer semester; attend an orientation session provided or approved by UMBC; and meet any other criteria established by UMBC.

To qualify for participation in the program, a business must (1) be located in the State; (2) be a technology-based business; (3) have 150 or fewer employees; (4) commit to hosting an intern for a minimum of 120 hours during a spring, fall, or summer semester; (5) provide a detailed description of an intern position with the business; and (6) provide proof that a representative has attended an orientation or training program provided or approved by UMBC.

The University System of Maryland advises that the average GPA for individuals participating in the program was 3.4; however, eight students identified by employers as their candidate of choice were ineligible due to GPA.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Commerce; Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/rhh

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