

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 502 (Senator Serafini)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

**Education - Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship - Eligibility**

---

This bill allows a Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship to be used for fees for a skills or aptitude assessment that assists in identifying an appropriate Workforce Development Sequence as specified in current law. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.**

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Expanding *eligibility* for the scholarship does not require additional spending. A set amount of funding is mandated for the scholarship, which is not changed by the bill. The Maryland Higher Education Commission can process any additional scholarship applications using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law/ Background:** One provision of the More Jobs for Marylanders Act of 2017 (Chapter 149) established Workforce Development Sequence Scholarships for eligible students who are enrolled in a program at a community college composed of courses that are related to job preparation or an apprenticeship, licensure or certification, or job skills enhancement. The Career Preparation Expansion Act of 2018 (Chapters 694 and 695) expanded the scholarship to include a registered apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation.

To be eligible for a scholarship, a student must be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high school and be enrolled at a community college in the State in a Workforce Development Sequence. An eligible individual may apply to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for a scholarship. An award may be used for tuition, mandatory fees, and other associated costs of attendance or costs to participate in a registered apprenticeship program. The annual amount of a scholarship awarded to an eligible student may not exceed \$2,000. Beginning in fiscal 2019, the Governor is required to appropriate at least \$1.0 million for the program annually. The fiscal 2019 budget and the Governor's proposed fiscal 2020 budget include \$1.0 million for the scholarships.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission; Baltimore City Community College; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 18, 2019  
mm/rhh

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510