

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 79  
Appropriations

(Delegate Rosenberg)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Maryland Technology Internship Program - Qualifications for Participation -  
Alterations

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This bill incorporates technology-based nonprofit organizations into the existing Maryland Technology Internship Program (MTIP), allowing them to participate in the same way as technology-based businesses, and units of State and local government, if they meet specified requirements. In addition, the bill decreases the cumulative grade point average (GPA) required for an intern to participate in MTIP from 3.0 to 2.5. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2020.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** State funding for MTIP is unchanged by the bill. However, to the extent that stipend reimbursements are directed to qualified nonprofit organizations instead of State agencies, the bill may result in State agencies funding fewer internships under the program. Any such impact is expected to be minimal.

**Local Effect:** To the extent that stipend reimbursements are directed to qualified nonprofit organizations instead of local governments, the bill may result in local government agencies funding fewer internships under the program. Any such impact is expected to be minimal.

**Small Business Effect:** Potential minimal.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 642 of 2014 created MTIP 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 the Department of 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, State, or local governments up to 50% of a stipend paid to an intern, capped at \$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 MTIP, a business must (1) be located in the State; (2) be a technology-based business; (3) commit to hosting an intern for a minimum of 120 hours during a spring, fall, or summer semester; (4) provide a detailed description of an intern position with the business; and (5) provide proof that a representative has attended an orientation or training program provided or approved by UMBC. "Technology-based business" is defined as a commercial or an industrial enterprise that is engaged in the application of scientific knowledge to practical purposes in a particular field. In addition, units of State and local governments may register to participate in the program. At least 50% of the internships supported by the program each year must be with businesses that have no more than 150 employees.

UMBC advises that the average GPA for individuals participating in the program is 3.5; however, 14 students identified by employers as their candidate of choice were ineligible due to GPA.

## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** HB 1237 of 2019, a similar bill as amended in the House, was referred to the Senate Rules Committee, where no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 27, 2020  
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