

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 1124  
Appropriations

(Delegate Harrison)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Higher Education - Richard W. Collins III Leadership With Honor Scholarship -  
Bowie State

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This bill allows students at Bowie State University (BSU) to receive *more than 25%* of the annual grant money for the Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program, by removing the requirement that exactly 25% of the annual grant money be awarded to BSU students. Any remaining grant money, rather than 75%, must be awarded to students at other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs). **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) can distribute the scholarship funds in the manner required by the bill using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Chapter 597 of 2018 established the Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship Program. To be eligible, an individual must be (1) eligible for in-state tuition; (2) a member of a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program; (3) a minority student or a student who is a member of another group historically underrepresented in ROTC programs; and (4) a student at an HBCU in the State. The Office

of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) within MHEC must make the awards, following specified criteria, and must adopt procedures or regulations necessary to implement the program. The Governor must include in the State budget an annual appropriation of at least \$1.0 million for the program.

OSFA must:

- award 25% of its total annual grant money to students at BSU;
- award 75% of its total annual grant money to students at HBCUs other than BSU;
- determine the amount of each award;
- select the recipient of each award; and
- prioritize students with financial need in selecting recipients of each award.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 40 (Senator Peters) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 9, 2021  
an/rhh Third Reader - March 11, 2021

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