

Funding for the senatorial and delegate scholarship programs for fiscal year 1985 approximates \$3.0 million, with Senatorial Scholarship funding set at a fixed funding level and Delegate Scholarship funding linked to increases in tuition and fees at the University of Maryland. The aggregate funding for these scholarship programs may need to be enhanced, since the higher cost of education over the years alone would prompt such a conclusion. But any proposed adjustment should be carefully developed and founded on certain criteria used for (1) justifying the need for the increase and (2) quantifying the appropriate funding increase to meet that need. Instead, House Bill 430 arbitrarily raises scholarship levels without any demonstrable relationship between the size of the adjustment and the need for such a large increase.

The increase in scholarship funding for these two programs contained in this legislation would ultimately cost \$4.7 million -- \$1.7 million above the current appropriation and set at a level dramatically in excess of the General State Scholarship Program.

The awarding of General State Scholarships is determined exclusively by need and merit. It ensures that those who have demonstrated the ability and the financial need for assistance will receive the financial aid necessary in order to pursue their educational goals. State support for this very worthy program for fiscal year 1985 will be approximately \$3.5 million, which is an increase from the Fiscal Year 1984 funding level of \$1.7 million.

To permit the funding level for General Assembly Scholarship Programs to exceed the General Scholarship Program by the proposed amount would be inappropriate.

For the above reasons, I have decided to veto House Bill 430.

Sincerely,
Harry Hughes
Governor

House Bill No. 430

AN ACT concerning

House-of-Delegates-Scholarships

**FOR--the--purpose--of--creating--an--alternative--procedure--for--the
award--of--House--of--Delegates--Scholarships,--specifying
requirements--and--limitations--for--awards--under--the**