
By: **Delegates Bohanan and Conway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Funding for Independent Regional Higher Education**
3 **Centers**

4 FOR the purpose of allocating a grant in a certain amount to the Maryland Higher
5 Education Commission to be distributed to certain independent regional higher
6 education centers on a certain basis; requiring certain governing bodies to use
7 the funds for certain purposes; requiring the Commission to adopt certain
8 regulations for the administration of the grant; providing a basic funding level
9 for independent regional higher education centers that is equitable, consistent,
10 and ongoing; defining a certain term; and generally relating to funding for
11 independent regional higher education centers.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Education
14 Section 10-212
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Education**

20 10-212.

21 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
22 CENTER" MEANS:

- 23 (1) THE EASTERN SHORE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER;
- 24 (2) THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (HEAT)
25 CENTER;
- 26 (3) THE LAUREL COLLEGE CENTER;

1 (4) THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER;
2 (5) THE WALDORF CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION; AND
3 (6) UP TO THREE ADDITIONAL REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS
4 THAT:

5 (I) ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION; AND
6 (II) ARE NOT PART OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.

7 [(a)] (B) Regional higher education centers in the State are important
8 educational resources and are vital to the delivery of postsecondary education in the
9 State.

10 [(b)] (C) A regional higher education center shall:

11 (1) Provide access to affordable higher education programs to citizens in
12 unserved or underserved areas of the State;

13 (2) Respond to the needs of businesses and industries in the areas in
14 which they serve; and

15 (3) Encourage participation by institutions of higher education for the
16 benefit of students and serve the needs of, and provide programs to, elementary and
17 secondary schools, business and industry, and governmental agencies.

18 (D) (1) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2007, AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
19 THEREAFTER, A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000 SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO THE
20 COMMISSION FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER
21 EDUCATION CENTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

22 (2) EACH INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
23 SHALL:

24 (I) RECEIVE \$500,000 IN BASIC OPERATING FUNDING; AND

25 (II) BE ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVE GRANTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO
26 EXCEED \$750,000 TO SUPPORT NEW PROGRAMS, NEW INITIATIVES AND TECHNOLOGY,
27 AND UPGRADES TO NONCAPITAL EQUIPMENT.

28 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
29 IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
30 CENTERS TO ENSURE THAT INCENTIVE GRANTS ARE ALLOCATED IN AN EQUITABLE
31 AND CONSISTENT MANNER.

32 (4) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (1) THROUGH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN
33 INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER MAY NOT RECEIVE BASIC
34 OPERATING FUNDING AND INCENTIVE GRANTS IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT THAT
35 EXCEEDS \$1,250,000 IN ANY FISCAL YEAR.

1 (5) THE GOVERNING BODY OF AN INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER
2 EDUCATION CENTER OR A GOVERNING BOARD MAY NOT TRANSFER ANY STATE
3 FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR
4 CATEGORY.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 July 1, 2005.