
By: **Delegates Bohanan and Conway**

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 10, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Appropriations, March 14, 2005

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2005

CHAPTER _____

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:

1

Article - Education

2 10-212.

3 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
4 CENTER" MEANS:

5 (1) THE EASTERN SHORE HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER;

6 (2) THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (HEAT)
7 CENTER;

8 (3) THE LAUREL COLLEGE CENTER;

9 (4) THE SOUTHERN MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER;

10 (5) THE WALDORF CENTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

11 (6) UP TO THREE ADDITIONAL REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTERS
12 THAT:

13 (I) ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

14 (II) ARE NOT PART OF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (2) EACH INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER
31 SHALL:

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

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

4 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
5 IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION
6 CENTERS TO ENSURE THAT INCENTIVE GRANTS ARE ALLOCATED IN AN EQUITABLE
7 AND CONSISTENT MANNER.

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

12 (5) THE GOVERNING BODY OF AN INDEPENDENT REGIONAL HIGHER
13 EDUCATION CENTER OR A GOVERNING BOARD MAY NOT TRANSFER ANY STATE
14 FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO ANY OTHER PROGRAM OR
15 CATEGORY.

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