

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

Senate Bill 416

(Senator Jones, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

---

Higher Education - Institutions of Higher Education - Plans for Programs of  
Cultural Diversity

---

This bill requires each public institution of higher education in Maryland to develop and implement a plan for a program of cultural diversity and submit the plan to its governing board. The plans must enhance cultural diversity programming and sensitivity to cultural diversity through instruction and training at the institution and must include implementation strategies and timetables for meeting goals in the plans. In addition, each nonpublic institution of higher education that receives State funding under the Sellinger formula must submit an annual report on its cultural diversity programs to the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA). The governing boards of public institutions and MICUA must each submit an annual progress report on the implementation of the plans submitted by institutions to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). MHEC must review the progress reports submitted by public governing bodies to monitor compliance with goals of the State plan for higher education.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2007.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Public institutions of higher education could develop and implement cultural diversity programs with existing personnel and resources. MHEC could collect plans and monitor compliance with the State plan for higher education with existing personnel.

**Local Effect:** Community colleges could develop and implement cultural diversity programs with existing personnel and resources.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal. Private colleges and universities receiving State funds would be required to adopt and implement programs of cultural diversity.

---

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Institutions of higher education are not statutorily obligated to develop programs of cultural diversity.

Eligibility for funding from the Sellinger formula requires a nonpublic institution of higher education to • be nonprofit; • be approved by MHEC; • be accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools; • have awarded degrees to at least one class; • maintain one or more earned degree programs; and • submit each new program and each major modification of an existing program to MHEC. In fiscal 2008, 17 nonpublic institutions qualify for Sellinger funding.

**Background:** In fall 2006, a fraternity at Johns Hopkins University advertised and hosted a “Halloween in the Hood” fraternity party that many believe was offensive and possibly representative of underlying racial tensions on the campus. The fraternity that hosted the party was placed on social probation, meaning it may not hold parties or other social events, until January 2008. The Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA), of which Johns Hopkins University is a member, advises that most MICUA member institutions have programs on cultural diversity and that course requirements and school-sponsored events at the institutions reinforce cultural sensitivity.

St. Mary’s College of Maryland, a public institution of higher education, reports that its five-year strategic plan includes cultural diversity goals. St. Mary’s also advises that it has many academic programs and student-based initiatives supporting cultural diversity.

**State Fiscal Effect:** *The University System of Maryland (USM) and Morgan State University (MSU) did not respond to requests for information on this bill.*

St. Mary’s College of Maryland reports that it could develop and submit a plan with existing resources. The plan is likely to include many components of its existing cultural diversity strategy. Assuming the plan it submits is sufficient, there would be no additional costs to implement the program. It is assumed that USM and MSU could likewise develop and implement programs of cultural diversity with existing resources.

MHEC advises that it could monitor cultural diversity programs with existing personnel.

**Local Fiscal Effect:** Community colleges would be required to develop and implement programs of cultural diversity. It is assumed that the plans and programs could be implemented with the existing resources of the colleges.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 777 (Delegate Proctor, *et al.*) – Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** St. Mary's College of Maryland, Maryland Independent College and University Association, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 6, 2007  
ncs/rhh Revised - Senate Third Reader - March 26, 2007

---

Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510