

Chapter 775

**(Senate Bill 7)**

AN ACT concerning

**Governor’s P–20 Leadership Council – College and Career Readiness and  
College Completion Reporting – Revisions**

FOR the purpose of altering a certain reporting requirement of the Governor’s P–20 Leadership Council relating to college and career readiness and college completion strategies; and generally relating to the reporting of college and career readiness and college completion strategies.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 11–207, 11–209, and 24–801(a)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 24–801(m)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

11–207.

(a) The Commission shall:

(1) Establish procedures for transfer of students between the public segments of postsecondary education;

(2) Recommend cooperative programs among segments of postsecondary education to assure appropriate flexibility in the higher education system; and

(3) In conjunction with the governing boards, establish standards for articulation agreements.

(b) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher education, shall develop and implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby at least 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses that a student earns at any

community college in the State toward an associate of arts or associate of science degree shall be transferable to any public senior higher education institution in the State for credit toward a bachelor's degree by July 1, 2016.

(c) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher education, shall develop and implement a statewide reverse transfer agreement whereby at least 30 credits that a student earns at any public senior higher education institution in the State toward a bachelor's degree are transferable to any community college in the State for credit toward an associate's degree by July 1, 2016.

(d) The Commission and each public institution of higher education shall develop and implement incentives for students to obtain an associate's degree before enrolling in a public senior institution of higher education.

(e) The Commission may recommend procedures and guidelines for consideration by the governing boards of institutions of postsecondary education on:

(1) Improvement and coordination of student financial assistance programs; and

(2) Other subjects of general interest and concern to the higher education community in the State.

11-209.

(a) In this section, "near completer" means an individual who has completed some college credits but does not have a college degree and is no longer attending an institution of higher education.

(b) The Commission, in collaboration with institutions of higher education, shall create a statewide communication campaign to identify near completers in the State and to encourage near completers to re-enroll in an institution of higher education to earn a degree.

(c) The communication campaign shall:

(1) Make use of a variety of marketing media, including billboards, brochures, and electronic resources;

(2) Provide a centralized contact point for near completers to get information about and assistance with re-enrolling;

(3) Make readily available contact information for each public institution of higher education in the State; and

(4) Focus on near completers who:

(i) Earned a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a scale of 4.0 while in college; and

(ii) 1. Earned at least 45 credit hours if the individual attended a community college; or

2. Earned at least 90 credit hours if the individual attended a senior higher education institution.

(d) (1) The Commission shall develop and implement a plan that would provide an incentive to:

(i) A near completer to re-enroll and earn a degree; and

(ii) A college to identify and graduate near completers.

(2) The incentive plan shall use all available resources, including institutional funds, private sector funds, and State funds.

(e) The Commission and institutions of higher education may implement other near completer initiatives in addition to the campaign and incentive plan required under this section.

(f) By December 1, 2013, the Commission shall submit a report, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly on the details of the statewide communication campaign and the incentive plan, including the expected timeline for implementation.

24–801.

(a) In this section, “Council” means the Governor’s P–20 Leadership Council of Maryland.

(m) By December 1, 2014, and every 2 years thereafter, the Council shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the progress of implementing college and career readiness and college completion strategies established in [§] §§ 7–205.1, [Title 11, Subtitle 7A, §§] **11–207, 11–209**, 15–114 through 15–117, and Title 18, Subtitle 14A of this article.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

**Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.**