

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 1085

(Senator Conway)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Morgan State University - Designation as the State's Preeminent Public Urban
Research University

This bill designates Morgan State University (MSU) as the State's *preeminent* public urban *research* university. The president of MSU must develop an overall plan that is consistent with the statewide plan for higher education and the Maryland Charter for Higher Education that provides for the enhancement of MSU as the State's preeminent public urban research university.

In addition to its current responsibilities, MSU must (1) be dedicated to the development and delivery of comprehensive and high-quality academic programs and services to its university community and the citizens of Maryland, particularly to the citizens of the Baltimore region, and (2) serve a diverse citizenry in an innovative and collaborative manner, all the while exercising its responsibilities with uncompromising integrity through strong, but compassionate, leadership.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Designating MSU as the State's preeminent public urban research university and otherwise clarifying its mission does not materially affect State or MSU finances. However, the overall plan developed by the president of MSU may cause MSU to redirect its higher education funds to different priorities. The bill does not require any additional State funding for MSU. Revenues are not materially affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Statute specifies that MSU:

- has the responsibility, with other educational institutions, for providing higher education research and graduate study in the Baltimore area;
- is the State's public urban university with a mission of instruction, research, and service;
- offers baccalaureate and graduate degrees in the arts and sciences;
- emphasizes an education addressing urban concerns; and
- offers the professional and graduate programs approved by its Board of Regents and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

The president of MSU must develop an overall plan that is consistent with the statewide plan for higher education and the Maryland Charter for Higher Education that:

- sets forth both long-range and short-range goals, objectives, and priorities for postsecondary education, research, and service provided by MSU;
- subject to the specified authority of MHEC, identifies the role, function, and mission of MSU;
- provides for the enhancement of MSU as the State's public urban university;
- encourages and supports high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs on its campuses; and
- stimulates outreach to the community and State through close relationships with public elementary and secondary schools, business and industry, and governmental agencies.

Background: MSU is currently designated as Maryland's public urban university with a mission of instruction, research, and science. The university is responsible for addressing the needs of the citizens, schools, and organizations within the Baltimore metropolitan area through academic, research, and service programs. One of the goals of MSU is to promote economic development by meeting critical workforce needs through its programs in professional fields such as engineering, business, teacher education, architecture, and social work. The Maryland Charter for Higher Education is a statement of public policy for higher education in Maryland, which comprises Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Education Article.

MSU enrolls and educates a diverse student body, including those among the best prepared and those who might not obtain a baccalaureate degree without extra support from the institution. MSU offers a comprehensive range of academic programs, awarding baccalaureate degrees emphasizing the arts and sciences and specialized master's and

doctoral degrees. More information can be found in the [fiscal 2018 operating budget analysis for MSU](#).

Under the [Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education system](#), MSU is considered a doctoral university with moderate research activity. This classification system primarily serves educational and research purposes to identify groups of roughly comparable institutions. To be considered a doctoral institution under the classification system, an institution must award at least 20 research or scholarship doctoral degrees during the update year. Doctoral institutions are then scaled on aggregate and per capita research activity using a formula developed for the purpose.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission; Morgan State University; Carnegie Foundation; Department of Legislative Services

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