SENATE BILL 607

F28lr2835 CF HB 913

By: Senators Conway, Zucker, Benson, Guzzone, Jennings, King, Madaleno, Manno, Middleton, Muse, Peters, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosapepe, Smith, and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2018

Returned to second reading: March 16, 2018 Senate action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 16, 2018

CHAPTER	
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1 AN ACT concerning

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2 Higher Education - Sexual Assault Policy - Disciplinary Proceedings Policy 3 **Provisions**

FOR the purpose of requiring the governing body of each institution of higher education, on or before a certain date, to adopt and submit to the Maryland Higher Education Commission a revised written policy on sexual assault that includes certain disciplinary proceedings provisions; requiring the disciplinary proceedings policy provisions to include a description of the rights for certain students and to include certain provisions; requiring the disciplinary proceedings policy provisions to require an institution of higher education to provide certain students with a certain notice, to use a certain standard of proof in certain disciplinary proceedings, to prohibit the use of mediation to resolve certain allegations except under certain circumstances, to prohibit a certain adjudicating official or body from considering certain types of evidence, except in certain circumstances, to prohibit an adjudicating officer or body from making certain findings except in certain circumstances, to require counsel to be provided to certain students under certain circumstances, and to authorize certain institutions to use mediation under certain circumstances, to require the Commission to pay certain costs and fees except under certain circumstances, and to provide for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to sexual assault and disciplinary proceedings policies provisions at institutions of higher education.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

Strike out indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

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hospital;

1 2 3 4 5	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Education Section 11–601 Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)
6 7	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
8	Article - Education
9	11–601.
10 11	(a) (1) By August 1, 1993, the governing body of each institution of higher education shall adopt and submit to the Commission a written policy on sexual assault.
12 13 14	(2) The policy adopted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply to each student, faculty member, and employee of the institution and inform the students, faculty members, and employees of their rights and duties under the policy.
15 16 17	(b) (1) Each institution of higher education shall post at appropriate locations on each campus and distribute to its students, faculty members, and employees a copy of the policy adopted under subsection (a) of this section.
18 19	(2) Each institution of higher education shall implement the policy adopted under subsection (a) of this section.
20 21 22 23 24	(c) The sexual assault policy required under subsection (a) of this section shall conform with § 485(f) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended [and], Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and ANY ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THIS SECTION AND shall include procedures for reporting an incident of sexual assault and for taking disciplinary actions against a violator of the policy, including provisions for:
25 26	(1) Informing a victim of a sexual assault of the right to file criminal charges with the appropriate law enforcement official;
27 28 29	(2) The prompt assistance of campus authorities, at the request of the victim, in notifying the appropriate law enforcement officials and disciplinary authorities of an incident of sexual assault;
30 31	(3) Designation of the nearest hospitals equipped with the Department of State Police Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit;
32	(4) Full and prompt cooperation from campus personnel in obtaining

appropriate medical attention, including transporting the victim to the nearest designated

- 1 (5) Offering counseling to a victim of sexual assault from mental health 2 services provided by the institution, other victim service entities, or the nearest State 3 designated rape crisis program;
 - (6) After a campus sexual assault has been reported, and upon the request of the alleged victim, the transfer of the alleged victim to alternative classes or housing, if such alternatives are available and feasible;
 - (7) Prohibiting the imposition of a campus conduct action, except for a mandatory intervention for substance abuse, for a violation of the alcohol or drug use policies of the institution of higher education for a student who reports to the institution or a law enforcement officer an incidence of sexual assault or who participates in an investigation of a sexual assault as a witness if:
- 12 (i) The institution of higher education determines the violation 13 occurred during or near the time of the alleged sexual assault;
- 14 (ii) The student is determined to have made the report of sexual 15 assault or is participating in an investigation as a witness in good faith; and
- 16 (iii) The institution of higher education determines that the violation 17 was not an act that was reasonably likely to place the health or safety of another individual 18 at risk;
- 19 (8) Prohibiting the institution of higher education from retaliating against 20 a student who files a complaint for sexual assault or who participates as a witness in an 21 investigation of a sexual assault; and
 - (9) Pursuing formalized agreements with:

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- 23 (i) The local law enforcement agency that complies with the 24 relevant provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and clearly states 25 when a school will refer a matter to local law enforcement; and
- 26 (ii) A State designated rape crisis program, federally recognized 27 sexual assault coalition, or both that formalizes a commitment to provide trauma—informed 28 services to victims of sexual assault and improve the overall response to sexual assault by 29 the institution of higher education.
- (D) (1) THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
 EDUCATION SHALL INCLUDE IN THE SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY REQUIRED UNDER
 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ★ PROVISIONS FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
 POLICY PROVISIONS FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY.

- 1 (2) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2019, THE GOVERNING BODY OF EACH
- 2 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT AND SUBMIT A REVISED SEXUAL
- 3 ASSAULT POLICY THAT INCLUDES THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS POLICY
- 4 PROVISIONS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.
- 5 (3) THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS POLICY PROVISIONS
- 6 REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A
- 7 DESCRIPTION OF THE RIGHTS OF A STUDENT WHO ALLEGES A VIOLATION OF OR A
- 8 STUDENT WHO RESPONDS TO AN ALLEGATION OF A VIOLATION OF THE
- 9 INSTITUTION'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY, INCLUDING:
- 10 (I) TREATMENT WITH DIGNITY, RESPECT, AND SENSITIVITY BY
- 11 OFFICIALS OF THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING ALL PHASES OF
- 12 THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS:
- 13 (II) A TIMELY FAIR AND IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION;
- 14 (III) DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS THAT ARE
- 15 FAIR AND-IMPARTIAL PROMPT AND EQUITABLE AND PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL AN
- 16 OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ALLEGED VICTIM AND THE ALLEGED VIOLATOR TO BE
- 17 HEARD;
- 18 (IV) TIMELY WRITTEN NOTICE OF:
- 1. The reported violation of the institution's
- 20 SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY, INCLUDING THE DATE, TIME, AND LOCATION OF THE
- 21 ALLEGED VIOLATION, AND THE RANGE OF POTENTIAL SANCTIONS ASSOCIATED
- 22 WITH THE ALLEGED VIOLATION;
- 23 2. The student's rights and responsibilities
- 24 UNDER THE SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY AND APPLICABLE LAW INFORMATION
- 25 REGARDING OTHER CIVIL AND CRIMINAL OPTIONS;
- 3. The date, time, and location of each hearing,
- 27 MEETING, OR INTERVIEW THAT THE STUDENT IS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED TO
- 28 ATTEND;

- 29 4. ANY A FINAL DETERMINATION MADE BY THE
- 30 ADJUDICATING OFFICIAL OR BODY REGARDING WHETHER A SEXUAL ASSAULT
- 31 POLICY VIOLATION OCCURRED AND THE BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION;
 - 5. ANY SANCTION IMPOSED; AND

- **SENATE BILL 607** 5 THE STUDENT'S RIGHTS TO APPEAL AND 1 6. 2 **DESCRIPTION OF THE APPEAL PROCESS;** 3 **(V)** PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, 4 **INCLUDING:** 5 1. ACCESS TO THE CASE FILE AND EVIDENCE 6 REGARDING THE INCIDENT OBTAINED BY THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING THE INVESTIGATION OR CONSIDERED BY THE ADJUDICATING OFFICIAL OR BODY, WITH PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE OR OTHER INFORMATION REDACTED # 8 9 REQUIRED BY LAW AS REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW; 2. 10 OFFERING TESTIMONY AT A HEARING OR, IF THE INSTITUTION'S PROCESS DOES NOT INCLUDE A HEARING, TO THE ADJUDICATING
- 11 12 **OFFICIAL**;
- 13 3. SUBMITTING EVIDENCE, WITNESS LISTS. **AND** 14 SUGGESTED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO BE POSED TO THE OTHER STUDENT INVOLVED 15 IN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS BY INVESTIGATORS OR THE ADJUDICATING 16 **OFFICIAL OR BODY:**
- 17 4. **PROVIDING** AND **REVIEWING TESTIMONY** ELECTRONICALLY OR IN A WAY IN WHICH THE STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE 18 19 IN THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF THE OTHER;
- 20 **5**. REVIEWING AND PROVIDING WRITTEN RESPONSES TO 21 REPORTS AND PROPOSED FINDINGS; AND
- 22 6. APPEALING A DETERMINATION OR A SANCTION;
- 23 (VI) ASSISTANCE BY A LICENSED ATTORNEY, AN ADVOCATE 24SUPERVISED BY AN ATTORNEY, OR AN ADVOCATE CERTIFIED BY THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION A TRAINED ADVOCATE 25 THROUGHOUT THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING BY THE ATTORNEY OR 26 ADVOCATE'S: 27
- 281. ATTENDANCE \mathbf{AT} HEARINGS, MEETINGS, **AND** 29 INTERVIEWS WITH THE STUDENT:
- 30 2. PRIVATE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE STUDENT 31 DURING HEARINGS, MEETINGS, AND INTERVIEWS, EXCEPT DURING QUESTIONING OF 32 THE STUDENT AT A HEARING; AND

- 3. ASSISTANCE WITH THE STUDENT'S EXERCISE OF ANY RIGHT DURING THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS; AND
- 3 (VII) THE NOTWITHSTANDING THE CHOICE THAT A STUDENT
- 4 MAKES UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(V) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE PRESENCE OF NO
- 5 MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE, INCLUDING A PERSONAL SUPPORTER OF THE STUDENT'S
- 6 CHOICE, IN ADDITION TO AN ATTORNEY, OR AN ADVOCATE, AT ANY HEARING,
- 7 MEETING, OR INTERVIEW DURING THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS.
- 8 (4) THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS POLICY PROVISIONS
- 9 REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:
- 10 (I) REQUIRE THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO
- 11 PROVIDE EACH STUDENT INVOLVED IN DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS WITH NOTICE,
- 12 AT LEAST 10 DAYS PRESENTED IN A CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND SENSITIVE
- 13 FORMAT, BEFORE THE START OF THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, OF:
- 14 1. The student's right to the assistance of an
- 15 ATTORNEY OR AN ADVOCATE;
- 16 2. THE LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND REFERRAL
- 17 SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE STUDENT; AND
- 3. The student's right to have a personal
- 19 SUPPORTER OF THE STUDENT'S CHOICE AT ANY HEARING, MEETING, OR INTERVIEW
- 20 DURING THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS;
- 21 (II) REQUIRE THE USE OF THE SAME STANDARD OF PROOF USED
- 22 IN OTHER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AT THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
- 23 EDUCATION FOR ALLEGATIONS OF CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS INVOLVING
- 24 DISCRIMINATION OR HARM TO ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL;
- 25 (III) PROHIBIT EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (5) OF
- 26 THIS SUBSECTION, PROHIBIT THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM
- 27 USING MEDIATION TO RESOLVE AN ALLEGATION OF A VIOLATION OF THE
- 28 INSTITUTION'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY;
- 29 (IV) PROHIBIT THE ADJUDICATING OFFICIAL OR BODY FROM
- 30 CONSIDERING CERTAIN EVIDENCE, INCLUDING:
- 31 **1. AN ALLEGED VICTIM'S** A STUDENT'S PRIOR SEXUAL
- 32 HISTORY WITH AN INDIVIDUAL OTHER THAN THE STUDENT ALLEGED TO HAVE
- 33 COMMITTED THE VIOLATION A PARTY TO THE PROCEEDINGS, EXCEPT TO:

1		<u>A.</u>	PROVE PROVE THE SOURCE OF INJURY OR;
2		<u>B.</u>	PROVE PRIOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT;
3	ULTERIOR MOTIVE; OR	<u>C.</u>	SUPPORT A CLAIM THAT A STUDENT HAS AN
5		<u>D.</u>	IMPEACH A STUDENT'S CREDIBILITY; AND
6 7	COUNSELING, TREATME	2. NT, O	A STUDENT'S HISTORY OF MENTAL HEALTH R DIAGNOSIS, UNLESS THE STUDENT CONSENTS; <u>AND</u>
8		UDEN	HBIT THE ADJUDICATING OFFICIAL OR BODY FROM TS INVOLVED IN THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
10 11	VIOLATED THE SEXUAL BODY FINDS THAT:	ASSA	ULT POLICY, UNLESS THE ADJUDICATING OFFICER OR
12 13	INDIVIDUAL; AND	1,	No student acted to dominate any other
14 15	OTHER STUDENTS' LACE	2. COF C	Every student intentionally disregarded the consent; and
16	(VI)	Unli	ESS AN ADJUDICATING OFFICIAL OR BODY MAKES
17	WRITTEN FINDINGS AND	A DE	TERMINATION THAT THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS
18 19	UNDER THIS SECTION W. THAT:	ILL N(OT RESULT IN THE EXPULSION OF A STUDENT, REQUIRE
20		1,	COUNSEL SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH STUDENT
21			EACH STUDENT RESPONDING TO AN ALLEGATION OF
22	THE SEXUAL ASSAULT P	OFIC.	I; AND
23	(V)	REQU	JIRE THAT COUNSEL BE PROVIDED AND PAID FOR BY
24			RIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
25	FOR:		
26		1.	A STUDENT WHO MAKES A COMPLAINT ON WHICH A
27	FORMAL A TITLE IX		ESTIGATION IS INITIATED, UNLESS THE STUDENT
28			LY CHOOSES NOT TO HAVE COUNSEL; AND
29		2.	A STUDENT WHO RESPONDS TO A COMPLAINT,
30	UNLESS THE STUDENT		WINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY CHOOSES NOT TO HAVE
31	COUNSEL.		

1	2. THE COMMISSION SHALL PAY REASONABLE COSTS
2	AND ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR A STUDENT THAT:
3	A. Is entitled to counsel under this subsection;
4	AND
5	B. IS INDIGENT AND UNABLE TO RETAIN COUNSEL.
6	(5) THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PROVISIONS REQUIRED UNDER
7	PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL AUTHORIZE AN INSTITUTION TO USE
8	MEDIATION OR OTHER INFORMAL MECHANISMS FOR RESOLVING A COMPLAINT
9	RELATING TO THE INSTITUTION'S SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY IF:
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10	(I) THE COMPLAINING STUDENT REQUESTS AN INFORMAL
11	MECHANISM;
10	(T) A. I. D. DETTE TO THE COLUMN AND THE INCOME.
12	(II) ALL PARTIES TO THE COMPLAINT, AND THE INSTITUTION,
13	AGREE TO THE USE OF THE INFORMAL MECHANISM;
1 /	(III) THE INSTITUTION PARTICIPATES IN THE INFORMAL
14	
15	MECHANISM BY PROVIDING TRAINED STAFF;
16	(IV) ANY PARTY MAY END THE INFORMAL MECHANISM AT ANY
17	TIME IN FAVOR OF A FORMAL RESOLUTION PROCEEDING; AND
11	TIME IN THY OR OF ATTORIME RESOLUTION TROCKEDING, AND
18	(V) THE ALLEGED MISCONDUCT DOES NOT INVOLVE SEXUAL
19	ASSAULT OR SEXUAL COERCION.
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20	(6) (I) THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS PROVISIONS REQUIRED
21	UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL, UNLESS A STUDENT WAIVES
22	COUNSEL UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(V) OF THIS SUBSECTION, REQUIRE THE
23	COMMISSION TO PAY REASONABLE COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES FOR STUDENTS
24	PROVIDED COUNSEL UNDER PARAGRAPH (4)(V) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AS PROVIDED
25	UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH.
26	(II) IN CONSULTATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL BAR
27	ASSOCIATIONS AND LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS WITH EXPERTISE ABOUT SEXUAL
28	MISCONDUCT, THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND LEGAL
29	SERVICES PROGRAMS WILLING TO REPRESENT STUDENTS ON A PRO BONO BASIS OR
30	AT FEES EQUIVALENT TO THOSE PAID TO ATTORNEYS UNDER CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES
31	PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION,
32	ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 11 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE.

1 2	(III) A STUDENT MAY SELECT AN ATTORNEY FROM THE LIST DEVELOPED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.
3 4	(IV) 1. SUBJECT TO SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, A STUDENT SHALL SELECT AND RETAIN AN ATTORNEY WITHIN 30
5 6	DAYS OF THE NOTICE PROVIDED TO THE STUDENT OF THE STUDENT'S RIGHT TO COUNSEL.
7 8 9	2. If a student does not select and retain an attorney within 30 days, the Commission shall select and retain an attorney for the student.
10 11 12 13 14	(V) IF A STUDENT SELECTS AND RETAINS AN ATTORNEY WHO IS NOT ON THE LIST DEVELOPED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH. THE COMMISSION SHALL PAY FEES TO THE ATTORNEY SELECTED BY THE STUDENT THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE PAID TO ATTORNEYS UNDER CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY THE MARYLAND LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION.
6	(7) THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM IMPOSING INTERIM SAFETY MEASURES.
.8	[(d)] (E) The Commission shall:
9	(1) Coordinate the development of the sexual assault policies; and
20 21	(2) Periodically review and make recommendations for changes in these policies.
22 23 24	[(e)] (F) (1) The Commission, in consultation with institutions of higher education, shall establish procedures for the administration of a sexual assault campus climate survey by each institution of higher education.
25 26	(2) The procedures shall require each institution of higher education to provide for the completion of the survey by various methods, including online.
27 28	[(f)] (G) On or before March 1, 2016, and at least every 2 years thereafter, each institution of higher education shall:

31 (2) Administer the sexual assault campus climate survey to students in accordance with the procedures established under subsection **[(e)] (F)** of this section.

nationally recognized best practices for research and climate surveys; and

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(1)

Develop an appropriate sexual assault campus climate survey using

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determines is necessary or appropriate.

- 1 [(g)] (H) On or before June 1, 2016, and every 2 years thereafter, each (1) institution of higher education shall submit to the Commission: 2 3 A report on school specific results of the sexual assault survey: (i) and 4 5 (ii) A report aggregating the data collected by the institution 6 regarding sexual assault complaints made to the institution, including the: 7 1. Types of misconduct; 8 2. Outcome of each complaint: 9 3. Disciplinary actions taken by the institution; 10 Accommodations made to students in accordance with the 4. sexual assault policy established under subsection (c) of this section; and 11 12 5. Number of reports involving alleged nonstudent 13 perpetrators. In reporting the data under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the 14 (2)15 institution of higher education shall make reasonable efforts to protect student privacy. 16 An institution of higher education shall submit the data required under (3)17 paragraph (1) of this subsection together with the reporting requirements of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Crime Statistics Act, as amended 18 by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. 19 20 On or before October 1, 2016, and every 2 years thereafter, the [(h)] (I) 21Commission shall: 22 Report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State (1) 23Government Article, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Health and Government 24Operations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee on the reports required 2526 under subsection [(g)] (H) of this section; and 27 Publish the reports required under subsection [(g)] (H) of this section
- 30 [(i)] (J) Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to confer a private cause of

action upon any person to enforce the provisions of this subtitle.

on the Commission's Web site and in any other location or venue the Commission

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2018.

proved:	
	Governor
	President of the Senate
	Speaker of the House of Delegates