

# HOUSE BILL 663

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By: **Delegates Healey, Gaines, Luedtke, and McIntosh**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Academic Forgiveness Policy – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain institutions of higher education to develop and  
4 implement a certain policy on or before a certain date that applies to certain  
5 applicants under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and generally  
6 relating to an academic forgiveness policy at institutions of higher education.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Education

9 Section 15–123 to be under the amended title “Title 15. Institutions of Higher  
10 Education”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

13

### Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Too often, students enrolled in institutions of higher education do not  
15 appreciate the value of their higher education experiences and, following a brief history of  
16 poor and failing grades, such students decide to pursue interests outside the academic  
17 world; and

18 WHEREAS, Following a considerable passage of time, former students have a  
19 greater appreciation of higher educational opportunities and may seek to return to the  
20 institution only to find that the grades they acquired during their earlier experience act as  
21 a barrier and hindrance to their academic progress; and

22 WHEREAS, The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism for institutions of  
23 higher education to disregard the records of such students that prevent or impede their  
24 academic success; now, therefore,

25 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

2 **Article – Education**

3 Title 15. [Public] Institutions of Higher Education.

4 **15–123.**

5 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
6 **INDICATED.**

7 **(2) “ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY” MEANS A POLICY THAT**  
8 **DISREGARDS AN APPLICANT’S UNSATISFACTORY OR FAILING GRADES EARNED AT A**  
9 **PRIOR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DURING AN ADMISSIONS PROCESS.**

10 **(3) “ADMISSIONS PROCESS” MEANS THE PROCESS BY WHICH**  
11 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SELECT STUDENTS FOR ENROLLMENT.**

12 **(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2018, EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER**  
13 **EDUCATION THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN**  
14 **ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY.**

15 **(2) THE POLICY DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
16 **(1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY TO AN APPLICANT IF:**

17 **(I) THE APPLICANT’S GRADES WERE EARNED 7 OR MORE**  
18 **YEARS BEFORE THE APPLICANT’S APPLICATION SUBMISSION; AND**

19 **(II) THE APPLICANT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
20 **ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY.**

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June**  
22 **1, 2018.**