

Chapter 165

**(House Bill 318)**

AN ACT concerning

**University System of Maryland – Textbooks – Availability of Free or Low-Cost  
Digital Materials  
(Textbook Transparency Act of 2020)**

FOR the purpose of requiring each constituent institution of higher education in the University System of Maryland to develop a method to clearly and conspicuously show students in the online course catalog which courses use free or low-cost digital materials and may provide access to certain low-cost print materials; providing that certain free or low-cost digital materials include certain resources and be equally accessible and usable by individuals with disabilities, ~~to the extent practicable;~~ providing for a delayed effective date; and generally relating to free or low-cost digital materials in higher education courses.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 12-114.2

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

**Article – Education**

**12-114.2.**

**(A) EACH CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION SHALL DEVELOP A METHOD TO CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY SHOW IN THE ONLINE COURSE ~~CATALOG~~ SCHEDULING APPLICATION WHICH COURSES:**

**(1) PROVIDE STUDENTS ACCESS TO ALL REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS IN THE FORM OF FREE OR LOW-COST DIGITAL MATERIALS; AND**

**(2) MAY PROVIDE STUDENTS ACCESS TO COURSE MATERIALS WITH A LOW-COST PRINT OPTION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FREE OR LOW-COST DIGITAL MATERIALS.**

**(B) THE FREE OR LOW-COST DIGITAL MATERIALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:**

(1) ~~MAY~~ SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, INCLUDE OPENLY LICENSED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES; AND

(2) ~~SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE,~~ BE EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO AND INDEPENDENTLY USABLE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, ~~2020~~ 2021.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.**