



Health and Government Operations
Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations
and Long Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals

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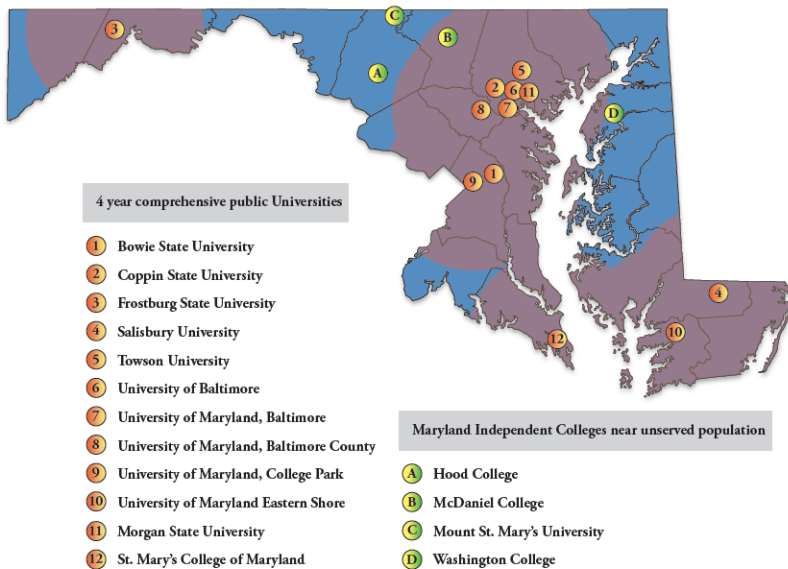
February 11, 2020

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, and members of the committee:

Noam Chomsky once stated that “students who acquire large debts [while] putting themselves through school are unlikely to think about changing society. When you trap people in a system of debt, they can't afford the time to think.”

The University of Maryland System consists of 10 comprehensive public universities. Additionally, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Morgan State University are public institutions of higher education all of which are public institutions supported by Maryland tax dollars to subsidize the tuition of Maryland residents. These public universities are clustered along the I-95 corridor and reach to the far Western Maryland and the lower Eastern Shore. For Maryland residents fortunate enough to live along the I-95 corridor there are multiple choices for where they can complete a bachelor's degree within a reasonable commuting distance.

4 YEAR COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES AND MARYLAND'S UNSERVED POPULATION



* The purple shaded areas depict a 30 mile radius around each public college.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the average commute in Maryland is 32 minutes by car or about 20 miles. However, for many degree-seeking students in Maryland, there is no access to a comprehensive public university. Once they complete community college—no state options exist for these commuter students in parts of Maryland within 30 miles or 40 minutes commute. The areas in purple in the figure above show the 30 mile radius from each of the USM institutions. The areas in blue indicate area that are unserved by a comprehensive public institution

This leaves all of Washington County, most of Frederick County, parts of Carroll and Montgomery Counties, and the Upper Eastern Shore unserved by Maryland's public universities. This leaves all of my district without access to public higher education beyond the community college level.

From Frederick County, the nearest comprehensive state public institutions is UMBC, which is 43 miles to the east and nearly an hour's drive. Towson University is more than 50 miles and College Park is 45 miles and an average of 75 minutes each way. Even the Universities at Shady Grove, not a comprehensive university with limited and ever-changing programming, is 36 miles from Frederick traveling south on I-270 which is notorious for its traffic and the focus of the governor's managed lanes P3 initiative.

Yet, Frederick is Maryland's second largest city and a major population center. Comparing population density with other population centers in the state, shows that Frederick is underserved if not unserved by Maryland's public higher education system—as is Hagerstown to the west. This is the only area of Maryland with this level of population density that is not served by public higher education beyond community college. Maryland does not adequately serve these citizens with access to the degrees they need to obtain the high-paying careers available within a short distance from their homes. Careers in bio-tech/bio-med, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, stem cell production, public school teaching, nursing, and cyber security—good careers with stability, opportunity for advancement, and high wages.

Once these Marylanders in these areas complete the only state resources available to them—the community college—there is no access for residents of District 2, 3, 4 and 36, to the same public Higher Education resources afforded those fortunate enough to live along the I-95 corridor, far Western Maryland, and the Lower Eastern Shore. There are, however, private-not-for-profit (PNFP) institutions offering access to those degrees Frederick residents need to secure their place in the middle class and professional class.

Who exactly are the students I am referring to? They are the community college graduates needing access to the final two years of the baccalaureate to obtain the entry-level requirement to gain access to the businesses the state and county have worked to attract to their area.

The average community college completer is 29 years old and female, 15% are single parents, 20% are disabled, one-third are first generation college students, most work full- or part-time. They cannot take years away from their lives and take on debt and lost earnings to complete the degree needed to compete in the local job market.

It may be helpful to compare Frederick County to a similar county and community college—Harford County. Both FCC and HCC have the same enrollment. FCC students are a bit older and have fewer transfer students than HCC. Even though enrollments are similar, 7% more HCC students transfer after

completing than FCC students. One possible reason for this is the proximity to a public university. FCC is 43 miles from the nearest public university and HCC is only 19 miles away.

The likelihood a student will attend college decreases proportionately with each mile traveled.

With just over a quarter million people the annual household income in Frederick County averages \$85K which is \$14K less than its neighbor to the south, Montgomery County where 57% of residents have a college degree compared to the 40% of Frederick County residents. Again, the nearest public university to Frederick is 43 miles (UMBC). The nearest public university to Rockville is 17 miles (UMCP). If we consider The Universities at Shady Grove (not a comprehensive public institution) then it is 2½ miles from Rockville and 32 miles from Frederick.

Of the 8 Top Growing Industries in Frederick, five require a bachelor's degree or higher. The top areas of the Gross Regional Product require a bachelor's degree or higher. The top 8 Earning Professions in Frederick all require a 4-year degree as an entry-level credential. We expect Frederick to grow by 12,000 people in the next 5 years and expect to add 9,000 jobs. These 9,000 jobs are largely in fields where the degree requirements eliminates Frederick County residents from applying. The drive from Rockville north to Frederick is an easy one and the easy access to higher education places Frederick residents at a distinct disadvantage. Those jobs will likely go to qualified applicants outside of Frederick County.

There are, however, private-not-for-profit colleges and universities, which can offer the degrees needed to compete, within the 30-mile/40-minute commuting distance. These would cover all of Frederick, the densely-populated areas of Washington County, Carroll County, and the more densely populated area of the Upper Eastern Shore.

What HB 167 does is make the funds the state would invest in the community college graduate going on to complete the baccalaureate if he or she were to attend a state public university, and make that sum available for use at a cooperating PNFP. This is about \$13,000 per FTE. The student would then be responsible for the average tuition and fees he or she would have paid to a Maryland public institution—about \$9000. The PNFP would accept this as payment-in-full.

Not surprisingly, there was opposition from this PNFP institutions not within areas where underserve and unserved student live. After a conference call with Sara Fidler, President of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA), and the presidents of Hood College, McDaniel College and Mount St. Mary's, I have agreed to accept an amendment that MICUA finds acceptable and will provide some measure of remedy for the unserved students in my district and other parts of Maryland. I request a favorable report on the bill as amended.

Respectfully,

Delegate Kenneth P. Kerr

District 3B – Frederick County

HOUSE BILL 167 – AMENDMENTS

FOR the purpose of...

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education
Section 18-2501 and 18-2502
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education
Section 18-2504
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

18-2501.

There is a 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program in the State under which scholarships are awarded under this subtitle.

18-2502.

A 2+2 Transfer Scholarship awarded under this subtitle may be used only at a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State.

18-2504.

(a) [(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the annual amount of the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship awarded under this subtitle shall be \$1,000.

(2) For a student who enrolls in a science, teaching, engineering, computer science, mathematics, or nursing program at a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State, the annual amount of the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship awarded under this subtitle shall be \$2,000] **THE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF THE 2+2 TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE UP TO THE EQUIVALENT ANNUAL TUITION AND MANDATORY FEES OF AN UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM AT THE PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION WITHIN THE**

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND, OTHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS OR THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, WITH THE HIGHEST ANNUAL EXPENSES FOR A FULL-TIME UNDERGRADUATE.

(b) A 2+2 Transfer Scholarship may be used for tuition and mandatory fees for 3 years of study, or six semesters of study, whichever is longer.

(c) To retain a 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, the recipient shall:

(1) Remain a resident of the State;

(2) Continue to be enrolled as an undergraduate student in a degree program at a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State;

(3) Maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale each academic year the individual is enrolled at a public senior higher education institution or a private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State or provide evidence satisfactory to the Office of extenuating circumstances; and

(4) Maintain the standards of the eligible institution that the individual attends.

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