



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 329
Public Institutions of Higher Education – Outbreak Response Plan
February 4, 2020
Favorable with Amendment

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 329. The bill requires each public institution of higher education to submit an outbreak response plan to the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) annually beginning in 2021.

The Board of Regents policy states: *“USM institutions are required to develop and maintain a campus emergency management program to prepare its campus community in the event of an emergency or incident, mitigate measures to reduce loss of life and property, respond to and recover from emergencies, and maintain campus mission essential functions. Campus emergency management and safety and security programs should focus on the protection of individuals, but must also address facilities, information technology security and infrastructure, business functions, and academic and research continuity.”*

The USM understands the intent of Senate Bill 329. The challenge, from the perspective of the USM, is conforming the provisions of the bill to campuses without residential housing. Those campuses are University of Maryland Global Campus, University of Baltimore, and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. These campuses also do not have a health center, where it is assumed reporting, tracking, and management of a "life-threatening contagious disease or similar health emergency" would take place. These campuses, do however, still have the referenced emergency management plans which would provide for an appropriate response and communication.

We respectfully request an amendment to exempt non-residential campuses in Senate Bill 329

Thank you for allowing the USM to share these concerns regarding Senate Bill 329.

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 329

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 1, in line 23, after “ARTICLE” insert “WITH RESIDENTIAL HOUSING”.