

MARYLAND REGISTER

## Proposed Action on Regulations

<b>Transmittal Sheet</b>  <b>PROPOSED OR REPROPOSED</b>  <b>Actions on Regulations</b>	<b>Date Filed with AELR Committee</b>	<b>TO BE COMPLETED BY DSD</b>
	10/27/2014	Date Filed with Division of State Documents
		Document Number
		Date of Publication in MD Register

**1. Desired date of publication in Maryland Register: 12/12/2014**

**2. COMAR Codification**

**Title Subtitle Chapter Regulation**

13B 02 03 02

**3. Name of Promulgating Authority**

Maryland Higher Education Commission

**4. Name of Regulations Coordinator**

Tonya L Johnson

**Telephone Number**

410-767-3312

**Mailing Address**

6 N. Liberty St., 10th Floor

**City State Zip Code**

Baltimore MD 21201

**Email**

tjohnson@mhec.state.md.us

**5. Name of Person to Call About this Document**

Mark Blom

**Telephone No.**

410-767-3311

**Email Address**

mark.blom@maryland.gov

**6. Check applicable items:**

New Regulations

Amendments to Existing Regulations

Date when existing text was downloaded from COMAR online: 10/20/14.

Repeal of Existing Regulations

Recodification

Incorporation by Reference of Documents Requiring DSD Approval

Reproposal of Substantively Different Text:

: Md. R  
(vol.) (issue) (page nos) (date)

Under Maryland Register docket no.: --P.

**7. Is there emergency text which is identical to this proposal:**

Yes  No

**8. Incorporation by Reference**

Check if applicable: Incorporation by Reference (IBR) approval form(s) attached and 18 copies of documents proposed for incorporation submitted to DSD. (Submit 18 paper copies of IBR document to DSD and one copy to AELR.)

**9. Public Body - Open Meeting**

OPTIONAL - If promulgating authority is a public body, check to include a sentence in the Notice of Proposed Action that proposed action was considered at an open meeting held pursuant to State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

OPTIONAL - If promulgating authority is a public body, check to include a paragraph that final action will be considered at an open meeting.

**10. Children's Environmental Health and Protection**

Check if the system should send a copy of the proposal to the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.

**11. Certificate of Authorized Officer**

I certify that the attached document is in compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act. I also certify that the attached text has been approved for legality by Mark Blom, Assistant Attorney General, (telephone #410-767-3311) on 10/24/14. A written copy of the approval is on file at this agency.

**Name of Authorized Officer**

Mark Blom

**Title**

Assistant Attorney General

**Telephone No.**

410-767-3311

**Date**

10/24/14

**Title 13B**  
**B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**Subtitle 02 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

**13B.02.03 Academic Programs - Degree Granting Institutions**

Authority: Education Article §§11-105(u) and 11-201 Annotated Code of Maryland.

**Notice of Proposed Action**

[]

The Maryland Higher Education proposes to amend Regulation .02 under COMAR 13B.02.03 Academic Programs - Degree Granting Institutions

This action was considered by the Commission at an open meeting held on October 22, 2014, notice of which was given as required by the State Government Article, §10-506(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

**Statement of Purpose**

The purpose of this action is to update regulations relating to areas of concentration at institutions of higher education. The proposed regulation change will permit community colleges to offer areas of concentration (AOC) within an Associate degree. These AOCs can appear on students' transcripts and diplomas and will allow community colleges to use AOCs in their catalogs and marketing materials.

**Comparison to Federal Standards**

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

**Estimate of Economic Impact**

**I. Summary of Economic Impact.**

Based on historical estimates derived from AOCs in the four-year sector and new degree proposals in the two-year sector, we anticipate receiving an average of two new AOC proposals per year from each Maryland community college. AOCs carry a submission and review fee of \$250 per proposal. When applied across all 16 Maryland community colleges, the annual revenue impact is \$8,000 for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Since these regulations would not fully go into effect until the spring 2015 semester, anticipated revenues would be lower in FY 2015.

<b>II. Types of Economic Impact.</b>	Revenue (R+/R-)	Magnitude
	Expenditure (E+/E-)	
A. On issuing agency:	NONE	
(1) AOC Proposal Fee	(R+)	8,000 annually

B. On other State agencies: NONE  
 C. On local governments: NONE

	Benefit (+) Cost (-)	Magnitude
D. On regulated industries or trade groups:	NONE	
(1) AOC Proposal Fee	(-)	8,000 annually
E. On other industries or trade groups:	NONE	
F. Direct and indirect effects on public:	NONE	

**III. Assumptions.** (Identified by Impact Letter and Number from Section II.)

A(1). Based on historical estimates derived from AOCs in the four-year sector and new degree proposals in the two-year sector, we anticipate receiving an average of two new AOC proposals per year from each Maryland community college. AOCs carry a submission and review fee of \$250 per proposal. When applied across all 16 Maryland community colleges, the annual revenue impact is \$8,000 for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Since these regulations would not fully go into effect until the spring 2015 semester, anticipated revenues would be lower in FY 2015.

D(1). Based on historical estimates derived from AOCs in the four-year sector and new degree proposals in the two-year sector, we anticipate receiving an average of two new AOC proposals per year from each Maryland community college. AOCs carry a submission and review fee of \$250 per proposal. When applied across all 16 Maryland community colleges, the annual revenue impact is \$8,000 for the Maryland Higher Education Commission. Since these regulations would not fully go into effect until the spring 2015 semester, anticipated revenues would be lower in FY 2015.

**Economic Impact on Small Businesses**

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

**Impact on Individuals with Disabilities**

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

**Opportunity for Public Comment**

Comments may be sent to Shawna Acker-Ball, Director of Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-3268, or email to [shawna.acker-ball@maryland.gov](mailto:shawna.acker-ball@maryland.gov), or fax to 410-332-0270. Comments will be accepted through 1/12/15. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

## **Economic Impact Statement Part C**

A. Fiscal Year in which regulations will become effective: FY 2015

B. Does the budget for the fiscal year in which regulations become effective contain funds to implement the regulations?

Yes

C. If 'yes', state whether general, special (exact name), or federal funds will be used:

General funds

D. If 'no', identify the source(s) of funds necessary for implementation of these regulations:

E. If these regulations have no economic impact under Part A, indicate reason briefly:

F. If these regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses under Part B, indicate the reason and attach small business worksheet.

Small businesses are not affected by this proposal because this regulation pertains to institutions of higher education.

G. Small Business Worksheet:

Attached Document:

---

# **TITLE 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION**

## **SUBTITLE 02 ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**

### **Chapter 03 Academic Programs – Degree Granting Institutions**

#### **.02 Definitions.**

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) "Area of concentration" means a sequential arrangement of courses within a program that:

*(a) At the associate's level is at least 12 semester credit hours, and not greater than 30 semester credit hours;*

*[(a)] (b) At the bachelor's level is at least 24 semester credit hours;*

*[(b)] (c) At the master's level is at least 12 semester credit hours above the bachelor's degree; and*

*[(c)] (d) At the doctoral level is at least 18 semester credit hours above the master's degree.*

(2) — (26) (text unchanged)

