

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
Maryland Higher Education Commission
(DLS Control No. 20-006)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation changes the requirements for awarding an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree.

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

Maryland Higher Education Commission:

Academic Regulations: Academic Programs - Degree-Granting Institutions:
COMAR 13B.02.03.24

Legal Analysis

Summary of Regulation

The regulation changes the requirements for awarding an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree. Currently, a degree-granting institution is authorized to award an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree that requires evidence of both qualifying scores on teacher certification tests and a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.00 scale.

The regulation alters the requirements so that an institution may award an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree that requires either (1) a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale; or (2) a 2.75–2.99 cumulative grade point average on a 4.00 scale and qualifying scores on the basic skills assessment for teacher licensure.

Legal Issues

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The Maryland Higher Education Commission cites Titles 11 and 16 of the Education Article as statutory authority for the regulation. More specifically, Section 11–105(b) requires the commission to coordinate the overall growth and development of postsecondary education in the

State. Section 11–105(u) authorizes the commission to adopt any rule or regulation necessary to carry out its powers and duties. Section 16–103(b) authorizes each community college board of trustees to, with the approval of the commission, establish and operate one or more community colleges. Section 16–103(i) authorizes each board of trustees, subject to the minimum standards of the commission, to determine entrance requirements and approve offerings that consist of transfer programs offering the equivalent of the first 2 years of a bachelor’s degree program, career programs offering technical, vocational, and semiprofessional education, and continuing education programs.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The commission advises that any fiscal impact on community colleges due to changing the requirements for awarding the Associate of Arts in Teaching is administrative and minimal. The Department of Legislative Services concurs. The changes align the Associate of Arts in Teaching requirements with Maryland educator certificate changes made by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Professional Standards Teacher Education Board.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The commission advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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