

HOUSE BILL 771

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4lr2278
CF SB 741

By: **Delegate Henson**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Senior Higher Education Institutions – Pregnant and Parenting**
3 **Students – Policy Requirements**
4 **(Pregnant and Parenting Support Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring each public senior higher education institution to adopt a
6 policy regarding pregnant and parenting students using certain guidelines;
7 requiring each public senior higher education institution to post the policy on the
8 institution’s website; and generally relating to pregnant and parenting students and
9 public senior higher education institutions.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 15–138

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **15–138.**

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
20 **INDICATED.**

21 **(2) “PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT**
22 **ENROLLED AT A PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION WHO:**

23 **(I) IS PREGNANT; OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (II) EXERCISES CARE, CUSTODY, OR CONTROL OVER A CHILD.

2 (3) "PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION" HAS THE
3 MEANING STATED IN § 15-136 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

4 (B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT ALL STUDENTS AT AN
5 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR
6 GENDER, SHALL ENJOY FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING
7 PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION AS DESCRIBED IN TITLE IX OF THE EDUCATION
8 AMENDMENTS OF 1972.

9 (C) (1) EACH PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL
10 ADOPT A POLICY REGARDING PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS THAT IS
11 CONSISTENT WITH TITLE IX OF THE FEDERAL HIGHER EDUCATION ACT.

12 (2) THE POLICY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
13 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

14 (I) REFERRAL TO ON-CAMPUS OR OFF-CAMPUS SERVICES TO
15 ASSIST REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF OR ELIGIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT
16 ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:

17 1. THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
18 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN;

19 2. THE CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;

20 3. THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM;

21 4. THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
22 PROGRAM; AND

23 5. ANY OTHER PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR
24 SUBSIDIES FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS;

25 (II) THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION ABOUT OR REFERRALS
26 TO RESOURCES REGARDING ADOPTION SERVICES;

27 (III) THE AVAILABILITY OF INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS
28 FOR PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS, INCLUDING PRIORITY CLASS
29 REGISTRATION AND FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING OPTIONS; AND

1 **(IV) A REFERRAL NETWORK OF ON-CAMPUS AND OFF-CAMPUS**
2 **HEALTH CARE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

3 **(D) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2025, EACH PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER**
4 **EDUCATION INSTITUTION SHALL POST THE POLICY ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION**
5 **(C) OF THIS SECTION ON THE INSTITUTION’S WEBSITE.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2024.