

SENATE BILL 864

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4lr1787
CF HB 1020

By: **Senators King, Feldman, Kagan, Kelly, Kramer, Smith, Waldstreicher, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 13, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Designation as**
3 **Community of Innovation**

4 FOR the purpose of designating the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher
5 Education Center as the State’s Regional Higher Education Community of
6 Innovation; altering the purposes of the Universities at Shady Grove; and generally
7 relating to the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 12–119
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is a regional higher education
15 center within the University System of Maryland (USM) that offers undergraduate and
16 graduate degree programs in partnership with the universities of USM, and provides
17 pathways to affordable high–quality public higher education to meet the workforce and
18 economic development needs of the region; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, USG has had over 20 years of success in providing its students – many
2 of whom are nontraditional students – with innovative pathways to degree completion
3 while serving as a driver of talent and workforce development in the State; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2022, USG unveiled its first strategic plan, USG 2.0, in which it
5 provides a roadmap to scale the center’s highly successful delivery of career pathway
6 programs and identifies four strategic imperatives that include accountability for ensuring
7 students secure meaningful employment, building career pathways, sharpening its focus
8 on career readiness, and building a financial model that supports growth, innovation, and
9 collaboration; and

10 WHEREAS, USG’s new strategic plan and mission positions the center to be an
11 incubator of innovation to plan, build, measure, assess, and strengthen student-centered
12 pathways for affordable and competitive education, career readiness, and student success,
13 and scale its student-centered focus; and

14 WHEREAS, A USG community of innovation addresses the shared challenge of
15 aligning higher education pathways with changing workforce priorities, as well as current
16 and future changing learner needs and priorities; and

17 WHEREAS, The community of innovation develops innovative and systemic
18 solutions that can be evaluated to continuously improve on meeting the challenge; and

19 WHEREAS, The return on investment is an accessible and affordable pathway for
20 every learner to build the workforce for the new Maryland economy, and a source of policy
21 innovation and learning for the State; now, therefore,

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

24 **Article – Education**

25 12–119.

26 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE” MEANS THE**
27 **UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER WITHIN**
28 **THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.**

29 (B) (1) There is a Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education
30 Center within the University System of Maryland.

31 (2) **THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS**
32 **THE STATE’S REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION IN**
33 **ORDER TO PROVIDE THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE WITH THE RECOGNITION**
34 **AND RESOURCES IT NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN THE PURPOSES**

1 ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION FOR ALL CURRENT AND
2 FUTURE STUDENTS.

3 [(b)] (C) The purpose of the Universities at Shady Grove [Regional Higher
4 Education Center] is to [provide]:

5 (1) PROVIDE students access to established, cutting edge, and
6 high-demand academic programs of degree-granting institutions;

7 (2) SERVE A DIVERSE CITIZENRY IN AN INNOVATIVE AND
8 COLLABORATIVE MANNER TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE REGION; AND

9 (3) AS A COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION:

10 (I) BE A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND BUSINESS
11 LEADERS WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ENSURE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S ACADEMIC
12 SUCCESS LEADS DIRECTLY TO CAREER SUCCESS, RESULTING IN A CUMULATIVE
13 IMPACT THAT POSITIVELY TRANSFORMS THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTY, REGION,
14 AND STATE;

15 (II) OFFER CLASSES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE LINKED
16 DIRECTLY TO MEANINGFUL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS;

17 (III) PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO
18 SIMULTANEOUSLY BALANCE PERSONAL AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE
19 COMPLETING THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS;

20 (IV) DIRECTLY CONNECT STUDENTS WITH LOCAL AND
21 REGIONAL EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE THE STUDENTS MOVE SEAMLESSLY FROM THE
22 CLASSROOM TO THEIR CAREERS; AND

23 (V) HAVE PROGRAMS AND FACULTY THAT ARE NATIONALLY
24 AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLABORATION AND
25 ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS.

26 [(c)] (D) The academic programs offered at the Universities at Shady Grove
27 [Regional Higher Education Center] shall be upper division undergraduate and graduate
28 level programs and programs for advanced postgraduate certificates and credentials.

29 [(d)] (E) Funding for the Universities at Shady Grove [Regional Higher
30 Education Center] shall be as provided in the State budget IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A
31 LEVEL OF OPERATING FUNDING AND FACILITIES NECESSARY TO ADVANCE AND
32 SUSTAIN THE PURPOSES OF THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE ESTABLISHED
33 UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.

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