

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE

Senate Bill 603 (Senator Middleton. *et al.*)

Budget and Taxation and Economic and Environmental Affairs

Higher Education - Regional Higher Education Centers

This bill provides the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) with statewide coordinating responsibility for regional higher education centers. Regional higher education centers are required to provide access to affordable higher education programs to citizens in unserved or underserved areas of the State, respond to the business and industry needs in the areas in which they serve, and provide programs to elementary and secondary schools, business, industry, and governmental agencies. In addition, regional higher education centers must provide certain information to MHEC and develop an approved mission statement.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements could be handled with the existing resources of MHEC.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: MHEC is provided the following responsibilities in regards to regional higher education centers: (1) requiring regional higher education centers to submit strategic plans in accordance with guidelines adopted by the commission; (2) providing grants to regional higher education centers for ongoing operating expenses and lease payments; (3) administering programs of State support and financial assistance for regional higher education centers; (4) assuring that courses and programs offered by regional higher education centers are within the scope of their approved mission; (5) assuring that State funds for regional higher education centers are spent prudently and in accordance with State guidelines; (6) reviewing and granting final approval of mission statements for each regional higher education center that requests or receives State funding; and (7) reviewing proposals for capital projects and improvements at regional higher education centers.

Current Law: The State's role with regard to regional higher education centers is limited. Approval by MHEC is not required for the establishment of these centers; however, MHEC does have authority over the programs provided by regional higher education centers.

Background: There are several higher education centers throughout Maryland that provide a more convenient facility for receiving education and training. The University System of Maryland (USM) operates two centers, has received an appropriation to develop a third, and is planning to establish a fourth. University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) operates two area health education centers. Two other independent centers also exist in areas not served by comprehensive, four-year institutions. These centers are administered locally and coordinate the needs of the areas' workforce, the resources of public and private institutions, and other training organizations. **Exhibit 1** provides information on the State's higher education centers. Operating funding support excludes usage fees supported by tuition and vendor revenues which are assumed at all centers.

Exhibit 1
Higher Education Centers in Maryland

<u>Name (Year Est.)</u>	<u>Primary Area Served</u>	<u>Administered By</u>	<u>Operating Funding Support From</u>
Downtown Baltimore Center (1991)	Baltimore City business district	USM	USM
Eastern Shore Health Education Center (1996)	Eastern Shore	UMB (USM)	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Eastern Shore Higher Education Center	Eastern Shore	N/A	N/A
Hagerstown Educational Center (TBA)	Western Maryland	USM	USM
H.E.A.T. Center (1995)	Cecil and Harford Counties	Harford Community College	Harford Community College and Harford County government
Shady Grove Center (1983)	Montgomery County	UMUC (USM)	USM Headquarters
Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (1995)	Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties	Southern Maryland Higher Education Center	Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties
Waldorf Center (1997)	Southern Maryland	Community College of Southern MD and UMUC	Community College of Southern MD and UMUC
Western Maryland Area Health Education Center (1996)	Garrett and Washington Counties	UMB (USM)	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Source: Maryland Higher Education Commission

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, University System of Maryland, Department of Legislative Services

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cmr/jr

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