

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2002 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 622

(Senator Hoffman)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Appropriations

Higher Education - Institutions of Higher Education - Graduate Professional
Certificate Program

This bill allows an institution of higher education to establish a graduate professional certificate program that satisfies the requirements beyond the baccalaureate level for licensure or certification in a profession or occupation. An institution may offer a professional certificate program if it offers a degree program directly related to the area of licensure or certification. The president of an institution that intends to offer a graduate professional certificate program must notify the governing board of the institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The program must be approved by MHEC.

The bill is contingent on the enactment of Senate Bill 85/House Bill 731.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any new programs established by institutions of higher education could be implemented with existing resources. The legislation does not require institutions to establish graduate professional certificate programs.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Potential minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: The governing boards of University System of Maryland (USM) institutions that are proposing to establish new academic programs must allow MHEC and other institutions of higher education in Maryland to review the proposal. If the proposal submitted by an institution is inconsistent with the institution's mission, creates unreasonable program duplication, or violates the State's equal educational opportunity obligations under State and federal law, MHEC must negotiate with the institution to modify the proposal. MHEC must monitor the program review process and report annually on the extent of program duplication in the State. These procedures and requirements are due to terminate on June 30, 2002.

Background: This bill is contingent on the enactment of SB 85/HB 731, which would extend with some modifications the current law process for reviewing new programs proposed by USM institutions. The current process was established by Chapter 515 of 1999 in response to the work of the Task Force to Study the Governance, Coordination, and Funding of the University System of Maryland and is due to sunset on June 30, 2002.

Under the previous program review process, MHEC was the final authority in granting or denying approval for new programs proposed by public institutions of higher education. The USM Board of Regents also reviewed and approved new programs proposed by USM institutions.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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