

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2004 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 1310

(Delegate Rudolph)

Appropriations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Higher Education - Community Colleges - Baccalaureate Degree Program - Request
for Proposal**

This bill sets procedures for community colleges desiring to offer a site-determined baccalaureate degree program sponsored by an in-state or out-of-state four-year institution of higher education. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must adopt regulations to implement the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MHEC could participate in the process with existing resources.

Local Effect: Community colleges would benefit to the extent that access to baccalaureate degree programs at the colleges attracts additional students. Colleges could also benefit financially, depending on the arrangements made with four-year institutions.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: A community college desiring to participate in a baccalaureate degree program may submit a request for proposal (RFP) to MHEC to distribute to four-year institutions of postsecondary education in the State. The community college must identify a baccalaureate degree program that is not offered in the region, seek input from students and interested community groups about the program, and determine the regional or statewide need for graduates of the proposed program.

If no in-state institutions respond to a community college's RFP, the college may submit the request to an out-of-state four-year institution of post-secondary education. An out-of-state institution responding to the RFP must submit an application to MHEC for approval.

Current Law: Although a process is not specifically authorized in State law, many community colleges have partnered with four-year institutions of higher education to allow students to earn degrees from four-year institutions on community college campuses.

Background: Several of Maryland's community colleges have established successful partnerships with four-year institutions of higher education to offer baccalaureate degrees from community college sites. For example, the College of Southern Maryland has developed partnerships with Johns Hopkins University, Bowie State University, Towson University, the University of Maryland University College, the University of Baltimore, St. Mary's College of Maryland, and Capital College to offer four-year degrees in engineering, teacher education, business administration, and computer science. Through the Universities at Shady Grove, Montgomery College has partnered with at least eight University System of Maryland institutions to offer undergraduate degree programs in accounting, information systems, marketing, nursing, social work, special education, and other fields. MHEC advises that these partnerships are often initiated by four-year institutions.

State Fiscal Effect: Students that take baccalaureate degree courses at community college campuses are not included in the full-time equivalent student count that drives State aid through the Senator John A. Cade formula for community colleges. The bill, therefore, would not directly impact State aid to the colleges.

MHEC could continue to monitor four-year degree programs at community colleges with existing resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: Tuition and fees for students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges are paid to the sponsoring four-year institutions, not community colleges. However, depending on the arrangements that colleges make with four-year institutions, community colleges could receive a facility fee or some other financial benefit through the partnerships. The primary benefit, however, is assumed to be the attraction of additional students to the colleges.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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