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By: **Delegate Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2005

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CHAPTER\_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Community Colleges and Regional Higher Education**  
3 **Centers - Degree Programs**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the governing body of a regional higher education  
5 center and the board of trustees of a community college to submit to the  
6 Maryland Higher Education Commission requests for proposals for the offering  
7 of certain baccalaureate degree programs; establishing certain requirements for  
8 submitting certain requests for proposals to the Commission; authorizing  
9 community colleges and regional higher education centers to submit to  
10 out-of-State senior higher education institutions requests for proposals for the  
11 offering of certain baccalaureate degree programs under certain circumstances;  
12 requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to  
13 the offering of baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges and  
14 regional higher education centers.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article - Education  
17 Section 10-212(c) and 16-108  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

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**Article - Education**

2 10-212.

3 (C) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER MAY  
4 SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFERING OF A BACCALAUREATE  
5 DEGREE PROGRAM AT THE CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 16-108 OF THIS ARTICLE.  
6 16-108.

7 (A) (1) A BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A  
8 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFERING OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE  
9 PROGRAM NOT CURRENTLY OFFERED IN THE REGION.

10 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE REQUEST FOR  
11 PROPOSALS TO PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND NONPUBLIC  
12 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

13 (B) BEFORE SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER SUBSECTION  
14 (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL:

15 (1) SEEK INPUT FROM STUDENTS, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
16 COUNCILS, AND OTHER CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, COMMUNITY, AND BUSINESS GROUPS  
17 WHEN ASSESSING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE REGION;

18 (2) DETERMINE THE REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE NEED FOR GRADUATES  
19 OF EACH PROGRAM FOR WHICH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IS SUBMITTED;

20 (3) IDENTIFY THE ENROLLMENT PATTERNS, SPECIAL  
21 CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS, AND OTHER UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT  
22 WOULD REQUIRE A PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER; AND

23 (4) DETERMINE THAT THE DEGREE PROGRAM IS NECESSARY TO MEET  
24 THE ACADEMIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE REGION OR STATE.

25 (C) (1) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY SUBMIT THE REQUEST FOR  
26 PROPOSALS TO AN OUT-OF-STATE SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION ~~INSTITUTION~~  
27 INSTITUTIONS IF NONE OF THE SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE  
28 STATE ~~RESPOND~~ SUBMIT AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST FOR  
29 PROPOSALS SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

30 (2) BEFORE OFFERING A DEGREE PROGRAM THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF  
31 THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS, AN OUT-OF-STATE SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
32 INSTITUTION SHALL SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION UNDER TITLE 11,  
33 SUBTITLE 2 OF THIS ARTICLE.

34 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE  
35 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 October 1, 2005.