
By: **Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request - Departmental - Higher Education Commission)**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education - Regional Centers - Approval to Operate in Maryland**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Maryland Higher Education Commission to
4 approve the operation of regional higher education centers in the State under
5 certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to assure that certain courses
6 and programs offered by regional higher education centers satisfy certain
7 criteria; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to the operation of
8 regional higher education centers in the State.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Education
11 Section 10-101(k) and 11-105(b)(7) and (d)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

16 **Article - Education**

17 10-101.

18 (k) "Regional higher education center" means a higher education facility in the
19 State that:

20 (1) [Includes] IS OPERATED BY A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
21 EDUCATION IN THE STATE OR A NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION
22 OPERATING UNDER A CHARTER GRANTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND
23 INCLUDES participation by two or more institutions of higher education in the State;

24 (2) Consists of an array of program offerings FROM INSTITUTIONS OF
25 HIGHER EDUCATION APPROVED TO OPERATE IN THE STATE BY THE COMMISSION OR
26 BY AN ACT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT SPECIFICALLY SATISFIES THE
27 CRITERIA SET FORTH IN § 10-212(B) OF THIS TITLE;

1 (3) Offers multiple degree levels; and

2 (4) Is either [affiliated with an institution of higher education]
3 APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE IN THE STATE or is established by
4 statute.

5 11-105.

6 (b) (7) The Commission HAS AUTHORITY TO APPROVE REGIONAL HIGHER
7 EDUCATION CENTERS TO OPERATE IN THE STATE AND has statewide coordinating
8 responsibility for regional higher education centers.

9 (d) (1) (I) THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE REGIONAL HIGHER
10 EDUCATION CENTERS TO OPERATE IN THE STATE; AND

11 (II) With respect to the regional higher education centers, the
12 Commission:

13 [(i)] 1. May require submission of strategic plans in accordance
14 with guidelines adopted by the Commission;

15 [(ii)] 2. May provide grants to regional higher education centers
16 for ongoing operating expenses and lease payments if consistent with the State Plan
17 for Higher Education and the approved mission statements of the regional higher
18 education centers;

19 [(iii)] 3. Shall administer programs of State support and financial
20 assistance for the regional higher education centers;

21 [(iv)] 4. Shall assure that courses and programs offered are within
22 the scope of the approved missions of the regional higher education centers AND
23 SPECIFICALLY SATISFY THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN § 10-212(B) OF THIS ARTICLE;
24 and

25 [(v)] 5. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,
26 shall assure that State funds for the regional higher education centers are spent
27 prudently and in accordance with State guidelines.

28 (2) With respect to the regional higher education centers administered
29 by the University System of Maryland, the University System of Maryland shall
30 assure that State funds for the regional higher education centers are spent prudently
31 and in accordance with State guidelines.

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