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By: **Delegate Hixson**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2005

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Higher Education Commission - Encouragement and Facilitation**  
3 **of MarylandOnline**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to  
5 encourage and facilitate the perpetuation of MarylandOnline; defining a certain  
6 term; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to the  
7 encouragement and facilitation of MarylandOnline.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - Education  
10 Section 11-105.1  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Education**

16 11-105.1.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "MARYLANDONLINE" MEANS A CONSORTIUM OF  
18 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE STATE THAT OFFER CERTIFICATE AND  
19 DEGREE PROGRAMS PRIMARILY IN AN ON-LINE FORMAT.

20 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE  
21 PERPETUATION OF MARYLANDONLINE.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act shall  
23 be construed to require the Maryland Higher Education Commission to create a new  
24 program called "MarylandOnline." This Act shall be construed to be a reference to the  
25 existing MarylandOnline, Inc. consortium.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2005.