
By: **Senators Hooper, Colburn, Harris, Jacobs, Klausmeier, and Lawlah**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2006

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Institutions of Higher Education - Transfer of Credits - Letter of**
3 **Acknowledgment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain institutions of higher education to require
5 certain students to sign certain letters of acknowledgment regarding the
6 transfer of certain credits except in certain circumstances; requiring certain
7 institutions to keep certain letters on file for a certain period of time; requiring
8 the Maryland Higher Education Commission to create a certain template and
9 post it on a certain website; and generally relating to the transfer of credits to
10 institutions of higher education.

11 BY adding to
12 Article - Education
13 Section 11-404
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 11-404.

20 (A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN
21 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION TO OPERATE
22 IN THE STATE THAT DOES NOT POSSESS REGIONAL ACCREDITATION FROM THE
23 COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION OF

1 ~~COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION~~ OR ANOTHER
2 REGIONAL ACCREDITING BODY APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE ITS
3 STUDENTS TO SIGN A LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT THE TRANSFER OF
4 CREDITS MAY BE DIFFICULT IF THE STUDENT INTENDS TO TRANSFER THE CREDITS
5 TO A REGIONALLY ACCREDITED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

6 (2) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THAT DOES
7 NOT POSSESS REGIONAL ACCREDITATION FROM A REGIONAL ACCREDITING BODY
8 REFERENCED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IS EXEMPT FROM THE
9 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION IF THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAS
10 WRITTEN ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS WITH THREE OR MORE REGIONALLY
11 ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

12 (B) THE INSTITUTION SHALL KEEP ON FILE THE LETTER OF
13 ACKNOWLEDGMENT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WHILE
14 THE STUDENT ATTENDS THE INSTITUTION AND FOR 2 YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE
15 STUDENT COMPLETES THE COURSE.

16 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

17 (1) CREATE A TEMPLATE FOR THE LETTER OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
18 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND

19 (2) POST THE TEMPLATE ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2006.