

**Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session**

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 122 (Chairman, Appropriations Committee)
(By Request – Departmental – Higher Education Commission)
Appropriations Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs

**Higher Education - State Plan for Higher Education - Mission Statements -
Quadrennial Review**

This departmental bill changes the schedule for submitting reviews of the State Plan for Higher Education from every other year to every fourth year. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must submit the first quadrennial review by July 1, 2008. In the year following each quadrennial review, public institutions of higher education and regional higher education centers must submit updates of their mission statements to MHEC for review and approval.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any change in the workload or schedules for MHEC and public institutions of higher education that results from the bill would not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: Any change in the schedules for submission of mission statements by community colleges would not materially affect finances at the colleges.

Small Business Effect: MHEC has determined that this bill has minimal or no impact on small business (attached). Legislative Services concurs with this assessment.

Analysis

Current Law: MHEC must submit a review of the State Plan for Higher Education every other year. Public institutions of higher education and regional higher education centers must update their mission statements at least every four years. MHEC must review and approve the mission statements of all public institutions of postsecondary education.

Background: MHEC advises that the two-year timeframe for submitting reviews of the State Plan for Higher Education is too short to implement initiatives and measure the success of the plan. MHEC also notes that requiring the submission of mission statements in the year after a review of the State Plan for Higher Education would allow for better alignment between the State plan and institutional missions and is consistent with current practice. The State plan was updated in 2004, and new mission statements were submitted in 2005. The full commission is scheduled to vote on the new missions at its February 2006 meeting.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: An identical bill was introduced last year as HB 731. The bill passed as introduced in the House but was amended in the Senate. Conference committee members were appointed by both chambers, but the committee did not submit a report.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's College of Maryland, University System of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Morgan State University, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 27, 2006
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