

HOUSE BILL 603

C3, F2

8lr1193

By: **Delegates Pena–Melnik, Ali, Barnes, Benson, Branch, Cane, Costa, Donoghue, Dumais, Gutierrez, Hammen, Healey, Hubbard, Hucker, Ivey, Kipke, Kullen, Levi, Mizeur, Montgomery, Morhaim, Nathan–Pulliam, Niemann, Oaks, Reznik, Robinson, Rosenberg, Ross, Tarrant, V. Turner, Valderrama, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Care Coverage – Institutions of Higher Education**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to require
4 all institutions of higher education to require certain students to maintain and
5 present evidence of health care coverage throughout a certain period; requiring
6 the Commission to require the institutions of higher education to offer health
7 insurance for purchase by students and consider health care coverage as an
8 educational cost for a certain purpose; requiring the Commission to adopt
9 certain regulations; providing for the implementation of certain requirements of
10 this Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to health care coverage
11 requirements for students enrolled in institutions of higher education.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 10–101(a), (c), and (f)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Education
19 Section 11–1001 and the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Health Care Coverage
20 Requirement for Full–Time Students”
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Education**

2 10–101.

3 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (c) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

5 (f) “Institution of higher education” means an institution of postsecondary
6 education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools, and
7 awards degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level.

8 **SUBTITLE 10. HEALTH CARE COVERAGE REQUIREMENT FOR FULL–TIME**
9 **STUDENTS.**

10 **11–1001.**

11 (A) **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “HEALTH CARE COVERAGE” MEANS CREDITABLE**
12 **COVERAGE AS DEFINED IN § 15–1301 OF THE INSURANCE ARTICLE.**

13 (B) **THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE ALL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**
14 **EDUCATION TO:**

15 (1) **REQUIRE ALL FULL–TIME STUDENTS TO:**

16 (I) **MAINTAIN HEALTH CARE COVERAGE THROUGHOUT THE**
17 **PERIOD OF THE STUDENT’S ENROLLMENT; AND**

18 (II) **PRESENT EVIDENCE OF THE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE**
19 **TO THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION AT LEAST ANNUALLY IN A FORM**
20 **AND MANNER PRESCRIBED BY THE INSTITUTION;**

21 (2) **OFFER HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PURCHASE, FOR AN**
22 **ADDITIONAL FEE TO BE PAID WITH TUITION, BY STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE**
23 **INSTITUTION; AND**

24 (3) **CONSIDER THE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER**
25 **THIS SECTION AS AN EDUCATIONAL COST FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING A**
26 **STUDENT’S ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL AID.**

27 (C) (1) **THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO**
28 **IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

1 **(2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL REQUIRE THE HEALTH INSURANCE**
2 **OFFERED FOR PURCHASE BY AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO BE**
3 **CREDITABLE COVERAGE, AS DEFINED IN § 15-1301 OF THE INSURANCE**
4 **ARTICLE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the requirements of §
6 11-1001(b), as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, shall be implemented beginning in the
7 fall 2009 semester.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of
9 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.