

## Chapter 622

(House Bill 1347)

AN ACT concerning

### Southern Maryland Higher Education Council

FOR the purpose of establishing a Southern Maryland Higher Education Council; providing for the composition of the Council; requiring the Governor to appoint a chair from among the Council members; ~~requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide staff for the Council;~~ prohibiting a member from receiving compensation but entitling a member to reimbursement for certain expenses; providing for the duties of the Council; requiring the Council to submit an interim and a final report on its findings and recommendations on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of the Council; and generally relating to the Southern Maryland Higher Education Council.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Southern Maryland Higher Education Council.
- (b) The Council consists of the following 12 members:
  - (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;
  - (2) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee;
  - (3) the President of St. Mary's College of Maryland, or the President's designee;
  - (4) the President of the College of Southern Maryland, or the President's designee;
  - (5) the President of the Maryland Independent College and University Association, or the President's designee;
  - (6) the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, or the Chair's designee;
  - (7) the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, or the Assistant Secretary's designee;

(8) the Chair of the Governor's Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board, or the Chair's designee;

(9) the President of the Board of Directors of the Patuxent Partnership, or the President's designee;

(10) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, or the President's designee;

(11) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of Charles County, or the President's designee; and

(12) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, or the President's designee.

(c) (1) The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members of the Council.

(2) The members may elect other officers and establish committees, including advisory committees, as needed.

~~(d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the Council.~~

~~(e)~~ (d) A member of the Council:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

~~(e)~~ (e) (1) The Council shall develop a strategy for improving access to higher education for the residents of Southern Maryland.

(2) In developing a strategy for improving access to higher education for the residents of Southern Maryland, the Council shall:

(i) examine the need for higher education in Southern Maryland;

(ii) examine whether or not the current higher education institutions and centers in Southern Maryland, including the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, are meeting the higher education needs of the region;

(iii) if a determination is made that additional higher education needs exist in Southern Maryland, recommend the best way to meet the additional educational needs; and

(iv) develop plans that include short-term and long-term strategies for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland.

~~(e)~~ (f) On or before December 1, 2011, the Council shall present an interim report of its findings and recommendations, including a short-term strategy for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

~~(h)~~ (g) On or before December 1, 2012, the Council shall present a final report of its findings and recommendations, including a long-term strategy for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period 2 of years and, at the end of June 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

**Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2011.**