

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 1347

(Delegate Bohanan)

Appropriations

Budget and Taxation

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**Southern Maryland Higher Education Council**

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This bill establishes a Southern Maryland Higher Education Council to develop a strategy for improving access to higher education for the residents of Southern Maryland. An interim report with a short-term strategy is due by December 1, 2011, and a final report with a long-term strategy is due by December 1, 2012.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011, and terminates June 30, 2013.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** State officials appointed to the council can participate without materially affecting the State budget.

**Local Effect:** Local government officials appointed to the council can participate without affecting local budgets.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

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**Analysis**

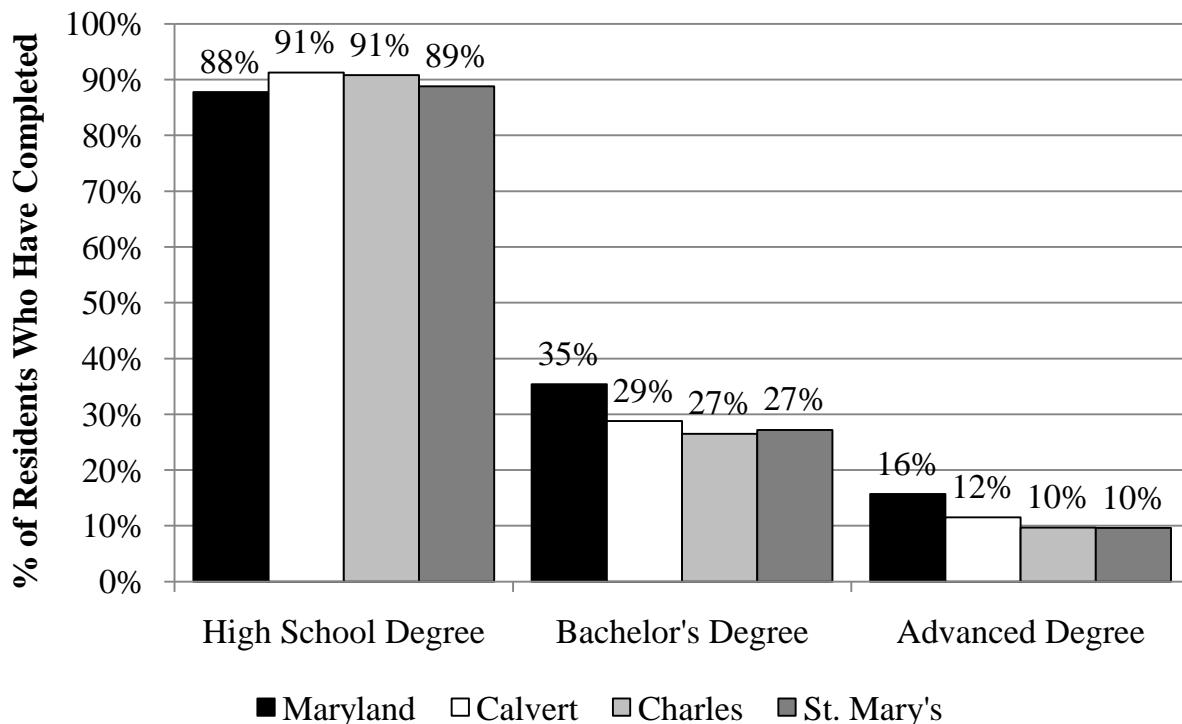
**Background:** The Southern Maryland region is generally thought of as including Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. Located within this area are a public four-year institution of higher education, a community college, and two regional higher education centers.

- St. Mary's College of Maryland (located in St. Mary's County): St. Mary's College is the State's public honors college and enrolls approximately 2,100 students annually. It is 1 of Maryland's 13 public four-year institutions of higher education and therefore receives a significant share of its funding from the State.
- College of Southern Maryland (has campuses in all three Southern Maryland counties): 1 of 16 public community colleges in the State, the College of Southern Maryland receives aid from the State and also gets funding from the three counties that it serves. The website for the college notes that it served 22,500 students in 2008, including 10,300 credit students and 12,200 continuing education students.
- Southern Maryland Higher Education Center (located in St. Mary's County): Established by the State of Maryland in 1994, the center partners with 13 public and private universities from inside and outside the State, including the University of Maryland, College Park; Johns Hopkins University; George Washington University; Harrisburg University; and Towson University. The website for the center claims that it hosts 13 bachelor's degree programs and more than 90 graduate degree programs.
- Waldorf Higher Education Center (located in Charles County): Founded in 1997, the center is operated through a memorandum of understanding between the College of Southern Maryland and the University of Maryland University College. The center also partners with Towson University and the College of Notre Dame.

The educational attainment of residents of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties is compared with the educational attainment of all Maryland residents in **Exhibit 1**. The exhibit shows that, relative to the statewide figures, slightly higher percentages of Southern Maryland residents have completed high school but lower percentages hold college degrees.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Educational Attainment of Residents Age 25 and Older**  
**2007-2009**



Source: *Demographic, Socioeconomic, Housing and Journey to Work Data for Maryland's Incorporated and Unincorporated Areas & Jurisdictions, 2007 – 2009*; Maryland Department of Planning

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 21, 2011  
mc/rhh Revised - House Third Reader - April 4, 2011

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Analysis by: Mark W. Collins

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510