

## Chapter 10

### (Senate Bill 56)

AN ACT concerning

#### **Unauthorized Institutions of Postsecondary Education – Transcripts, Diplomas, and Grade Reports – Penalties**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from buying, selling, distributing, using, offering, or presenting as genuine a transcript, diploma, or grade report of an entity that represents itself as an institution of postsecondary education if the entity is not authorized to operate as an institution of post secondary education in the State or another state or country; and generally relating to transcripts, diplomas, and grade reports of unauthorized institutions of postsecondary education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Education  
Section 26–301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Education**

26–301.

(a) (1) A person may not falsely make, falsely alter, forge, counterfeit, or cause or procure to be falsely made, falsely altered, forged, or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making, falsely altering, forging, or counterfeiting a transcript, diploma, or grade report of an institution of postsecondary education.

(2) A person may not knowingly buy, sell, distribute, use, offer, or present as genuine a false, forged, counterfeited, or altered transcript, diploma, or grade report of an institution of postsecondary education.

**(3) A PERSON MAY NOT BUY, SELL, DISTRIBUTE, USE, OFFER, OR PRESENT AS GENUINE A TRANSCRIPT, DIPLOMA, OR GRADE REPORT OF AN ENTITY THAT REPRESENTS ITSELF AS AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IF THE PERSON KNOWS OR HAS REASON TO KNOW THE ENTITY IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO OPERATE AS AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE STATE OR IN ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY.**

**[(3)] (4)** A person may not use, offer or present a transcript, diploma, or grade report of an institution of postsecondary education in a fraudulent manner.

(b) A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, or imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2013.

**Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.**