

HOUSE BILL 531

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4lr1652

By: **Delegates Fisher, Arentz, Bates, Boteler, Cluster, Elliott, Jacobs, McComas, McConkey, McDermott, McMillan, Myers, Norman, Otto, Ready, Schulz, Serafini, Smigiel, Stocksdales, Szeliga, Vitale, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Community Colleges – Bachelor’s Degree Programs**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing certain community colleges in the State to offer
4 bachelor’s degree programs and award bachelor’s degrees; requiring certain
5 bachelor’s degree programs to include certain components; requiring certain
6 community colleges, in coordination with the Secretary of Higher Education, to
7 adopt certain rules and regulations; and generally relating to bachelor’s degree
8 programs at community colleges.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 10–210(b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Education
16 Section 16–109
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

19 Preamble

20 WHEREAS, Community colleges offer the most affordable form of higher
21 education in the State; and

22 WHEREAS, Community colleges are currently limited to awarding 2–year
23 associates degrees; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, To make bachelor's degrees affordable to more citizens of the State,
2 community colleges should have the option of offering 4-year bachelor's degree
3 programs that include online courses to students to accomplish that goal; now,
4 therefore,

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

7 **Article – Education**

8 10–210.

9 (b) (1) The community colleges of the State shall:

10 [(1)] (I) Provide a core curriculum of general education, including
11 courses in the arts and sciences, that should be available to all students;

12 [(2)] (II) Provide lower level undergraduate courses, in accordance
13 with credit transfer guidelines set by the Maryland Higher Education Commission, for
14 students who aspire to continue their education at a senior institution;

15 [(3)] (III) Provide technical and career education programs;

16 [(4)] (IV) Provide training in skills and fields of study of importance to
17 the region's business community;

18 [(5)] (V) Provide a wide variety of continuing education programs to
19 benefit citizens of the community;

20 [(6)] (VI) Provide developmental and remedial education for citizens
21 with needs in these areas; and

22 [(7)] (VII) Provide public services to the community's citizens.

23 (2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 16–109 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE
24 COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF THE STATE MAY PROVIDE UPPER LEVEL
25 UNDERGRADUATE COURSES AND DEGREE PROGRAMS AND MAY AWARD
26 BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

27 16–109.

28 (A) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, A
29 COMMUNITY COLLEGE MAY OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND MAY
30 AWARD BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

1 **(2) A BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY A COMMUNITY**
2 **COLLEGE SHALL INCLUDE COMPONENTS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND**
3 **ONLINE COURSES AND SERVICES.**

4 **(B) IF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE CHOOSES TO OFFER BACHELOR’S**
5 **DEGREE PROGRAMS AND AWARD BACHELOR’S DEGREES, THE COMMUNITY**
6 **COLLEGE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE SECRETARY, SHALL ADOPT RULES AND**
7 **REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BACHELOR’S DEGREE**
8 **PROGRAMS AND THE AWARDING OF BACHELOR’S DEGREES AT THE COMMUNITY**
9 **COLLEGE.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 July 1, 2014.