SENATE BILL 647

By: Senator Conway
Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Public Higher Education – Use of Funds – Prohibition

FOR the purpose of stating certain findings of the General Assembly; declaring a certain policy of the State; prohibiting certain institutions of higher education from using funds for certain purposes; requiring a certain reduction to State funds under certain circumstances; limiting the scope of a certain prohibition; and generally relating to institutions of higher education.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 10–203.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

10–203.1.

(A) The General Assembly finds that it is beneficial to students of this State to have access to:

(1) An education that is not bound by geographic borders; and

(2) A global education which provides students with the opportunity to connect, compete, and cooperate with peers around the world.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(B) The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of the State that public colleges and universities not use funds to directly or indirectly support academic boycotts of other countries that have ratified declarations of cooperation with the State or institutions of higher education in those countries.

(C) Public institutions of higher education in the State may not use funds, including general funds, tuition and fees, and institutional funds, to provide for:

(1) Membership fees of a faculty or staff of the public institution of higher education that are owed to an organization that has issued a public resolution or statement or taken an official action boycotting a country that has ratified a declaration of cooperation with the State or the country’s institutions of higher education; and

(2) Travel expenses of a faculty or staff of the public institution of higher education to attend meetings of an organization that has issued a public resolution or statement or taken an official action boycotting a country that has ratified a declaration of cooperation with the State or the country’s institutions of higher education.

(D) If a public institution of higher education uses funds that are prohibited under subsection (C) of this section, State funds allocated to the institution in the fiscal year following the prohibited use of funds shall be reduced by 3%.

(E) Nothing in this section limits an employee of a public college or university from using personal funds to belong to or participate in an organization described in subsection (C) of this section.

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