

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 392
Appropriations

(Delegates Rudolph and James)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Northeastern Maryland Higher Education Advisory Board - Revisions

This bill repeals the requirement that the Northeastern Maryland Higher Education Advisory Board (NMHEAB) ensure that all academic programs and policies of the University Center at Higher Education and Applied Technology (HEAT) are in compliance with the policies of, and approved by, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). The bill also makes technical changes and clarifications regarding NMHEAB.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's changes are technical.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: Chapter 614 of 2011 established a Task Force to Study the Creation of a Regional Higher Education Center in Northeastern Maryland. The task force found that there was a need for expanded bachelor, master, and doctoral programs in the Northeastern Maryland region. It concluded that existing Maryland higher education institutions, both public and private, already have programs available to meet the needs of the region; however, expanded facilities distributed throughout the region

would be required to support upper-division bachelor degree programs as well as master and doctoral programs.

The task force recommended that a coordinating body known as NMHEAB be established in statute to bring together a comprehensive and disciplined understanding of higher education demands of the region. Chapter 661 of 2012 established NMHEAB and specified board membership and duties.

MHEC reports that it is assumed that any programs offered at the HEAT Center must be in compliance with MHEC's policies and procedures; thus, the current requirement that NMHEAB ensure that all academic programs and policies of the University Center at HEAT are in compliance with MHEC policies and approved by MHEC may be duplicative.

A regional higher education center (RHEC) is a facility that has the participation of two or more institutions of higher education, consists of a variety of program offerings, and offers multiple degree levels. RHECs are designed to ensure access to higher education in underserved areas of the State. The centers provide baccalaureate and graduate programs in places where students do not have access due to geographical distance, commute time, or the limited capacity of local four-year institutions. The centers offer the State an opportunity to address workforce needs in high-demand areas, particularly for nontraditional students, and to support State, regional, and local economic development goals. The HEAT Center is one of eight RHECs located throughout Maryland.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Higher Education Commission, University System of Maryland, Harford County, Department of Legislative Services

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mam/rhh

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