

HOUSE BILL 212

F2, F4

5lr1692

By: **Delegates Fisher, Jackson, Jameson, O'Donnell, Patterson, Rey, and C. Wilson**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2015
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – College of Southern Maryland – Bachelor's Degree**
3 **Programs**

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

10 BY renumbering

11 Article – Education
12 Section 16–610
13 to be Section 16–611
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

17 Article – Education
18 Section 10–210(b)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Education
23 Section 16–610
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

26 Preamble

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 WHEREAS, Community colleges are currently limited to awarding 2-year associates
4 degrees; and

5 WHEREAS, To make bachelor's degrees affordable to more citizens of the State, the
6 College of Southern Maryland should have the option of offering 4-year bachelor's degree
7 programs that include online courses to students to accomplish that goal; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That Section(s) 16–610 of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be
10 renumbered to be Section(s) 16–611.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
12 as follows:

13 **Article – Education**

14 10–210.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 (2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 16–610 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COLLEGE
30 OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND MAY PROVIDE UPPER LEVEL UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
31 AND DEGREE PROGRAMS AND MAY AWARD BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

1 16-610.

2 (A) (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE
3 COLLEGE MAY OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND MAY AWARD
4 BACHELOR'S DEGREES.

5 (2) A BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE COLLEGE
6 SHALL INCLUDE COMPONENTS OF CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND ONLINE COURSES
7 AND SERVICES.

8 (B) IF THE COLLEGE CHOOSES TO OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS
9 AND AWARD BACHELOR'S DEGREES, THE COLLEGE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE
10 SECRETARY, SHALL ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE
11 IMPLEMENTATION OF BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AND THE AWARDING OF
12 BACHELOR'S DEGREES AT THE COLLEGE.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2015.