

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

House Bill 967
 Appropriations

(Delegate Frick)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

The Textbook Cost Savings Act of 2017

This bill requires the Governor to include \$100,000 in the fiscal 2019 State budget as a grant to the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation (the center) at the University System of Maryland (USM) for the Maryland Open Source Textbook (MOST) Initiative. The grant may be used to award grants related to openly licensed educational resources, reimburse MOST initiative expenses, and reimburse fiscal 2018 expenditures for these activities. In addition, the center and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) must jointly explore the possibility of providing all students in primary and secondary education with high-quality, low-cost learning materials and resources such as openly licensed educational resources. The center and MSDE must submit an interim report by December 31, 2017, and findings and recommendations by December 31, 2018.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2022.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$100,000 in FY 2019 to provide a grant to the center. Revenues and expenditures at public institutions of higher education, including Baltimore City Community College, increase in FY 2018 and 2019 if a grant is received from the center. MSDE and USM can jointly explore the required topics and produce the required reports using existing resources. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation for FY 2019.**

(in dollars)	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Higher Ed Rev.	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	-	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Higher Ed Exp.	-	-	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Effect	\$0	(\$100,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Revenues and expenditures at local community colleges increase in FY 2018 and 2019 if a grant is received from the center.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The bill expresses the policy of the State that all students have access to high-quality, low-cost learning material and resources.

Specifically, the funds may be used to (1) award grants to support and promote the adoption, adaptation, and creation of openly licensed educational resources in order to reduce a student's cost of attendance while maintaining or improving learning outcomes; (2) reimburse expenses incurred in the operation of the MOST initiative, including administrative functions and the evaluation of its efficacy; and (3) reimburse money expended in fiscal 2018 that would have met the requirements of items (1) and (2). To the extent practicable, funds allocated must be for the adoption, adaptation, and creation of openly licensed educational resources that are equally accessible to and independently usable by individuals with disabilities.

Current Law/Background: [The William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation](#) at USM was established in 2013 to promote USM's position as a national leader in higher education academic innovations. The center conducts research on best practices, disseminates findings, offers professional development opportunities for institutional faculty and administrators, and supports the 14 public institutions that are part of the system as they continue to expand innovative academic practices. In addition to other topics, the center has worked on open educational resources, including the MOST initiative.

[The MOST initiative](#) began in August 2013 as a collaboration between the USM Student Council and the center to launch activities related to the adoption of open source textbooks. Since then, the MOST initiative has developed into an initiative to facilitate faculty efforts to explore the promise of freely available, open source instructional materials to reduce students' cost of attendance while maintaining, or perhaps even improving, learning outcomes.

In February 2016, MSDE [committed](#) to participate in the [federal #GoOpen initiative](#). This initiative requires states to create, identify, and offer a repository of Open Educational Resource (OER) digital resources such as courses, textbooks, multimedia, lessons, etc., that will be available to Maryland State educators and other global partners. All resources will be meta-tagged and searchable and will cite attribution and accessibility levels of

compliance. The repository will maintain a reciprocal relationship with the [Learning Registry](#), which will provide access to other state and global resources.

MSDE advises that two Maryland school systems, Anne Arundel and Howard, have committed to the district level #GoOpen initiative. This commitment requires the conversion of a traditional textbook to one that is created with OERs and other digital resources. Ensuring student privacy is a primary concern as school systems move forward with this program. Currently, several other school systems are considering participation in the movement.

Maryland's school systems independently select textbooks and materials. Through this State and local partnership, educators will have access to multiple OER digital textbooks and materials that can be reviewed, remixed, and distributed throughout the school system.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 424 (Senator Rosapepe, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Maryland State Department of Education; U.S. Department of Education; Department of Legislative Services

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