

HOUSE BILL 205

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HB 663/18 – APP

9lr0870

By: **Delegates Healey, Gaines, Haynes, McIntosh, and Valentino-Smith**
Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2019
Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Academic Forgiveness Policy – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain institutions of higher education to develop and
4 implement an academic forgiveness policy on or before a certain date that applies to
5 certain applicants under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and
6 generally relating to an academic forgiveness policy at institutions of higher
7 education.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 15–126 to be under the amended title “Title 15. Institutions of Higher
11 Education”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

14 Preamble

15 WHEREAS, Too often, students enrolled in institutions of higher education do not
16 appreciate the value of their higher education experiences and, following a brief history of
17 poor and failing grades, such students decide to pursue interests outside the academic
18 world; and

19 WHEREAS, Following a considerable passage of time, former students have a
20 greater appreciation of higher educational opportunities and may seek to return to the
21 institution only to find that the grades they acquired during their earlier experience act as
22 a barrier and hindrance to their academic progress; and

23 WHEREAS, The purpose of this section is to provide a mechanism for institutions of
24 higher education to disregard the records of such students that prevent or impede their
25 academic success; now, therefore,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 Title 15. [Public] Institutions of Higher Education.

5 **15-126.**

6 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
7 INDICATED.

8 (2) “ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY” MEANS A POLICY THAT
9 DISREGARDS DURING AN ADMISSIONS PROCESS AN APPLICANT’S UNSATISFACTORY
10 OR FAILING GRADES EARNED AT A PRIOR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

11 (3) “ADMISSIONS PROCESS” MEANS THE PROCESS BY WHICH
12 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SELECT STUDENTS FOR ENROLLMENT.

13 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2019, EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
14 EDUCATION THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT AN
15 ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY.

16 (2) THE POLICY DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED UNDER PARAGRAPH
17 (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL APPLY TO AN APPLICANT IF:

18 (I) THE APPLICANT’S GRADES WERE EARNED 7 OR MORE
19 YEARS BEFORE THE APPLICANT’S APPLICATION SUBMISSION; AND

20 (II) THE APPLICANT ELECTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
21 ACADEMIC FORGIVENESS POLICY.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
23 1, 2019.