

# HOUSE BILL 318

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By: **Delegates Stewart, Barron, Boyce, Carr, Charkoudian, Ebersole, Feldmark, Hettleman, Kerr, Lierman, Love, Moon, Palakovich Carr, Shetty, Solomon, Terrasa, Wells, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **University System of Maryland – Textbooks – Availability of Free Digital**  
3 **Materials**  
4 **(Textbook Transparency Act of 2020)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring each constituent institution of higher education in the  
6 University System of Maryland to develop a method to clearly and conspicuously  
7 show students in the online course catalog which courses use free digital materials  
8 and may provide access to certain low-cost print materials; providing that certain  
9 free digital materials include certain resources and be equally accessible and usable  
10 by individuals with disabilities, to the extent practicable; and generally relating to  
11 free digital materials in higher education courses.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 12–114.2  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **12–114.2.**

21 **(A) EACH CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION SHALL DEVELOP A METHOD TO**  
22 **CLEARLY AND CONSPICUOUSLY SHOW IN THE ONLINE COURSE CATALOG WHICH**  
23 **COURSES:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(1) PROVIDE STUDENTS ACCESS TO ALL REQUIRED COURSE**  
2 **MATERIALS IN THE FORM OF FREE DIGITAL MATERIALS; AND**

3           **(2) MAY PROVIDE STUDENTS ACCESS TO COURSE MATERIALS WITH A**  
4 **LOW-COST PRINT OPTION AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FREE DIGITAL MATERIALS.**

5           **(B) THE FREE DIGITAL MATERIALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS**  
6 **SECTION:**

7           **(1) MAY INCLUDE OPENLY LICENSED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES;**  
8 **AND**

9           **(2) SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, BE EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE**  
10 **TO AND INDEPENDENTLY USABLE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
12 1, 2020.