A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Student Horizon Database and Scorecard
(Students Right to Know Act of 2021)

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with certain agencies, to annually collect certain information; requiring the Department to establish and maintain a certain database on the Department’s website; requiring the Department to publish on the Department’s website a Student Horizon Scorecard on or before a certain date each year; requiring the Student Horizon Scorecard to include certain information; requiring each local school system to distribute the Student Horizon Scorecard to each high school student on or before a certain date each year; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Student Horizon Database and Scorecard.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7–126
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–126.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
(2) “Institution of postsecondary education” has the meaning stated in § 10–101 of this article.

(3) “Private career school” has the meaning stated in § 10–101 of this article.

(4) “Public senior higher education institution” has the meaning stated in § 10–101 of this article.

(B) The Department, in collaboration with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Maryland Department of Labor, and the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center, shall:

(1) Annually collect information on:

   (I) The most in-demand jobs in the State, including the starting salary and education levels required for each job;

   (II) For all institutions of postsecondary education and private career schools in the State, the average:

       1. Cost of attendance;

       2. Monthly student loan payments of students who attended each institution or private career school;

       3. Student 3–year loan default rate;

       4. Graduation or completion rate of students who attended each institution or private career school; and

       5. Starting salary of graduates or completers of each institution or private career school;

   (III) For all public senior higher education institutions, the average total student loan debt of graduates of each institution for each undergraduate and graduate degree program at the institution;

   (IV) The completion rate and average starting salary of students enrolled in the following programs while in high school:

       1. Apprenticeship programs;
2. CREDENTIAL PROGRAMS; AND

3. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

(V) THE COMPLETION RATE AND AVERAGE STARTING SALARY FOR THE FIRST TERM OF ENLISTMENT OF STUDENTS WHO ENLIST IN THE MILITARY; AND

(VI) THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE GRADUATES IN THE STATE WORKING IN AN OCCUPATION THAT DOES NOT REQUIRE A COLLEGE DEGREE; AND

(2) CREATE AND MAINTAIN A SEARCHABLE STUDENT HORIZON DATABASE ON THE DEPARTMENT’S WEBSITE USING THE INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION THAT INCLUDES:

(I) THE 50 HIGHEST ENROLLED:

1. COLLEGE MAJORS AT EACH PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION IN THE STATE;

2. VOCATIONAL AND PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS IN THE STATE AND;

3. HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE STATE;

(II) A FUNCTION THAT ALLOWS A USER TO COMPARE ALL INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOLS BY:

1. AVERAGE ANNUAL COST;

2. GRADUATION OR COMPLETION RATE;

3. STARTING SALARY AFTER GRADUATION OR COMPLETION;

4. HIGHEST PAYING SALARIES FOR THE FIVE HIGHEST ENROLLED MAJORS OR PROGRAMS AT THE INSTITUTION OR PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL;

5. FULL–TIME ENROLLMENT;
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6. Socioeconomic diversity;
7. Student race;
8. Student ethnicity;
9. Family income brackets;
10. Percentage of students successfully paying student loan payments;
11. Average total debt after graduation or completion;
12. Average student debt after graduation or completion;
13. Percentage of students receiving federal loans;
14. Average monthly student loan payment;
15. Percentage of students not returning after their first year; and
16. Enrollment or employment status of students 8 years after high school graduation; and

(III) A search function to allow a user to choose a specific major or program at an institution of postsecondary education or private career school that yields results on the:

1. Percentage of students who will graduate in 6 years or less or complete on time;
2. Percentage of students employed within 6 months of graduation or completion with an average starting salary of an amount selected by the user;
3. Average debt of graduates or completers;
4. Average total cost of attendance for the selected major or program; and
5. Average debt of students who do not graduate or complete the program.

(c) On or before October 1, 2022, and each October 1 thereafter, the Department shall publish on the Department’s website a Student Horizon Scorecard that includes a list of the:

   (1) 50 highest enrolled majors among all public senior higher education institutions in the State;

   (2) 20 career and technical education and certificate programs with the highest starting salary after graduation or completion;

   (3) 25 most in-demand jobs in the State and their corresponding starting salaries and education requirements; and

   (4) Base pay, benefits, and average signing bonus of students who enlist in the military after high school graduation, along with the necessary Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery score by military branch.

(d) On or before October 31, 2022, and each October 31 thereafter, each local school system shall distribute to each high school student the most recent Student Horizon Scorecard published on the Department’s website.

(e) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.