

Chapter 143

(House Bill 966)

AN ACT concerning

Higher Education – Academic Credit for Prior Learning Examinations – Policies and Procedures

FOR the purpose of requiring each public institution of higher education, on or before a certain date, to develop and implement policies and procedures for awarding academic credit for prior learning examinations; requiring each public institution of higher education and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to post certain policies and procedures on their websites; and generally relating to awarding credit for prior learning examinations at public institutions of higher education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 15–134

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

15–134.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATION” INCLUDES ADVANCED PLACEMENT PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS, CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS, AND COLLEGE–LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS.

(B) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS.

(2) THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

(1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ACCEPT FOR AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT:

1. A MINIMUM SCORE OF 3 ON ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMINATIONS; AND

2. A MINIMUM SCORE OF 50 ON COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS;

(II) DETERMINE THE MINIMUM REQUIRED SCORE FOR AWARDING ACADEMIC CREDIT ON THE CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION DIPLOMA PROGRAM EXAMINATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM EXAMINATION THAT IS COMPARABLE TO THE MINIMUM SCORES UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH;

(III) INDICATE THE MANNER IN WHICH ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS WILL BE AWARDED FOR GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS, MAJOR REQUIREMENTS, AND ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS; AND

(IV) INCLUDE PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TRANSFER OF ACADEMIC CREDITS AWARDED FROM PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS TO ANOTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(3) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY REQUIRE A HIGHER SCORE ON A PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATION THAN LISTED IN PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION PROVIDES EVIDENCE TO THE COMMISSION THAT THE HIGHER SCORE IS NECESSARY FOR A STUDENT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN A PARTICULAR COURSE.

(C) (1) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL:

(I) PUBLICLY POST THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION ON THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S WEBSITE UNDER THE "ADMISSIONS" CATEGORY; AND

(II) SUBMIT THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES TO THE COMMISSION.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL POST EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES ON THE COMMISSION'S WEBSITE.

(D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31 EACH YEAR, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE FOLLOWING METRICS RELATED TO THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING ACADEMIC YEAR:

(1) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS AWARDED ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS;

(2) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF ACADEMIC CREDITS AWARDED TO STUDENTS FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS;

(3) THE NUMBER OF ACADEMIC CREDITS AWARDED TO MATRICULATING STUDENTS FOR PRIOR LEARNING EXAMINATIONS AND, OF THOSE CREDITS:

(I) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS APPLIED TOWARD MAJOR REQUIREMENTS; AND

(II) THE NUMBER OF CREDITS APPLIED TOWARD ELECTIVE REQUIREMENTS; AND

(4) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION OR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTS.

(E) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, April 21, 2022.