

SENATE BILL 152

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2lr1055

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Kramer**

Requested: October 29, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Institutions of Higher Education – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive**
3 **Measures Related to Student Debt**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an institution of higher education from refusing to provide
5 a current or former student with a transcript or taking other punitive measures
6 regarding a student’s transcript request because the student owes a debt to the
7 institution of higher education; and generally relating to the prohibition on punitive
8 measures by institutions of higher education regarding transcript requests from
9 students who owe debts to the institution.

10 BY adding to
11 Article – Education
12 Section 15–134
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **15–134.**

19 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
20 **INDICATED.**

21 **(2) (I) “DEBT” MEANS ANY MONEY, OBLIGATION, CLAIM, OR SUM**
22 **DUE OR OWED BY A STUDENT TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) “DEBT” INCLUDES:**

2 **1. CREDIT EXTENDED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE**
3 **INSTITUTION THAT A STUDENT IS OBLIGATED TO REPAY; AND**

4 **2. A NONFEDERAL LOAN OR DEBT AGREEMENT THAT IS**
5 **ISSUED EXPRESSLY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES AND THAT IS**
6 **GUARANTEED BY:**

7 **A. AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; OR**

8 **B. A PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LENDER THAT IS**
9 **AFFILIATED WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

10 **(III) “DEBT” DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FEE, IF ANY, CHARGED TO**
11 **A STUDENT FOR THE ACTUAL COSTS OF PROVIDING A TRANSCRIPT.**

12 **(3) “STUDENT” INCLUDES CURRENT STUDENTS AND FORMER**
13 **STUDENTS OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**

14 **(B) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY NOT:**

15 **(1) REFUSE TO PROVIDE A TRANSCRIPT TO A STUDENT BECAUSE THE**
16 **STUDENT OWES A DEBT;**

17 **(2) CONDITION THE ISSUANCE OF A TRANSCRIPT ON THE PAYMENT**
18 **OF A DEBT;**

19 **(3) CHARGE A HIGHER FEE FOR OBTAINING A TRANSCRIPT BECAUSE**
20 **A STUDENT OWES A DEBT;**

21 **(4) PROVIDE LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF A TRANSCRIPT**
22 **REQUEST BECAUSE A STUDENT OWES A DEBT; OR**

23 **(5) USE TRANSCRIPT ISSUANCE AS A TOOL FOR DEBT COLLECTION.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2022.