SENATE BILL 152

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

AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

(2) (I) “Debt” means any money, obligation, claim, or sum 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.
(II) “Debt” includes:

1. Credit extended by or on behalf of the institution that a student is obligated to repay; and

2. A nonfederal loan or debt agreement that is issued expressly for postsecondary education expenses and that is guaranteed by:

   A. An institution of higher education; or

   B. A private educational lender that is affiliated with an institution of higher education.

(III) “Debt” does not include the fee, if any, charged to a student for the actual costs of providing a transcript.

(3) “Student” includes current students and former students of an institution of higher education.

(B) An institution of higher education may not:

(1) Refuse to provide a transcript to a student because the student owes a debt;

(2) Condition the issuance of a transcript on the payment of a debt;

(3) Charge a higher fee for obtaining a transcript because a student owes a debt;

(4) Provide less favorable treatment of a transcript request because a student owes a debt; or

(5) Use transcript issuance as a tool for debt collection.

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