

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Institutions of Higher Education – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive**
3 **Measures Related to Student Debt Transcript Requests by Students With**
4 **Unpaid Student Account Balances**

5 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting an~~ requiring a public institution of higher education from
6 refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript or taking other
7 punitive measures regarding a student's transcript request because the student owes
8 a debt to the institution of higher education to allow certain students with an unpaid
9 balance on a student account that is a certain amount or less to request and receive
10 a transcript; requiring a public institution of higher education to allow certain
11 students with an unpaid balance on a student account that is greater than a certain
12 amount to request and receive a transcript under certain circumstances; and
13 generally relating to the prohibition on punitive measures by institutions of higher
14 education regarding transcript requests from students who owe debts to the
15 institution with unpaid balances on student accounts.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 15–134

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article - Education

2 15-134.

3 (A) ~~(1) IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS~~
4 ~~INDICATED.~~

5 ~~(2) (i) "DEBT" MEANS ANY MONEY, OBLIGATION, CLAIM, OR SUM~~
6 ~~DUE OR OWED BY A STUDENT TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

7 ~~(ii) "DEBT" INCLUDES:~~

8 ~~1. CREDIT EXTENDED BY OR ON BEHALF OF THE~~
9 ~~INSTITUTION THAT A STUDENT IS OBLIGATED TO REPAY; AND~~

10 ~~2. A NONFEDERAL LOAN OR DEBT AGREEMENT THAT IS~~
11 ~~ISSUED EXPRESSLY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION EXPENSES AND THAT IS~~
12 ~~GUARANTEED BY:~~

13 ~~A. AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION; OR~~

14 ~~B. A PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL LENDER THAT IS~~
15 ~~AFFILIATED WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

16 ~~(iii) "DEBT" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FEE, IF ANY, CHARGED TO~~
17 ~~A STUDENT FOR THE ACTUAL COSTS OF PROVIDING A TRANSCRIPT.~~

18 ~~(3) "STUDENT STUDENT" INCLUDES CURRENT STUDENTS AND~~
19 ~~FORMER STUDENTS OF AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.~~

20 (B) ~~AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY NOT:~~

21 ~~(1) REFUSE TO PROVIDE A TRANSCRIPT TO A STUDENT BECAUSE THE~~
22 ~~STUDENT OWES A DEBT;~~

23 ~~(2) CONDITION THE ISSUANCE OF A TRANSCRIPT ON THE PAYMENT~~
24 ~~OF A DEBT;~~

25 ~~(3) CHARGE A HIGHER FEE FOR OBTAINING A TRANSCRIPT BECAUSE~~
26 ~~A STUDENT OWES A DEBT;~~

27 ~~(4) PROVIDE LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF A TRANSCRIPT~~
28 ~~REQUEST BECAUSE A STUDENT OWES A DEBT; OR~~

1 ~~(5) USE TRANSCRIPT ISSUANCE AS A TOOL FOR DEBT COLLECTION~~ A
2 PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ALLOW A STUDENT WITH AN
3 UNPAID BALANCE OF \$1,000 OR LESS ON A STUDENT ACCOUNT TO REQUEST AND
4 RECEIVE A TRANSCRIPT.

5 (C) (1) A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ALLOW A
6 STUDENT WITH AN UNPAID BALANCE OF MORE THAN \$1,000 ON A STUDENT
7 ACCOUNT TO REQUEST AND RECEIVE A TRANSCRIPT IF THE STUDENT ENTERS INTO
8 AN INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DAY ON WHICH THE
9 STUDENT MAKES THE REQUEST.

10 (2) THE INSTALLMENT PAYMENT PLAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
11 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL REQUIRE THE STUDENT TO MAKE PAYMENTS TO SETTLE
12 THE UNPAID BALANCE ON THE STUDENT ACCOUNT BY THE AGREED ON DATE.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.