

SB0662/823828/1

BY: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 662
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, strike “**Alterations**” and substitute “**Accommodations at Public Institutions for Religious Beliefs**”; in line 5, after “Governor;” insert “requiring each institution of higher education to adopt a certain written policy regarding the provision of reasonable academic accommodations for students to practice sincerely held faith-based or religious beliefs;”; in line 16, strike “and” and substitute a comma; in lines 16 and 17, strike “in the State” and substitute “, and accommodations at public institutions for religious beliefs”; and in line 26, after “Section” insert “15–136, 18–303.4, and”.

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 7 through 12, inclusive.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 2, insert:

“15–136.

(A) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT A WRITTEN POLICY THAT PROVIDES REASONABLE ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS TO PRACTICE SINCERELY HELD FAITH-BASED OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

(B) THE POLICY SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE AN ACCOMMODATION FOR A STUDENT, INCLUDING EXCUSED ABSENCES, FOR A STUDENT TO:

(I) OBSERVE FAITH-BASED OR RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS; OR

(II) PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZED RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES;

(2) PROVIDE THAT A STUDENT BE ALLOWED REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MISSING AN EXAMINATION OR OTHER ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS DUE TO AN EXCUSED ABSENCE UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE STUDENT'S SINCERELY HELD FAITH-BASED OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR PRACTICE AFFECTS THE STUDENT'S ABILITY TO TAKE AN EXAMINATION AS SCHEDULED OR MEET ANY OTHER ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT; AND

(3) INCLUDE A GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE TO REPORT NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE POLICY.

(C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A SPACE ON CAMPUS TO ACCOMMODATE FAITH-BASED OR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES.

(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS.

(D) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL POST PROMINENTLY ON ITS WEBSITE A COPY OF THE POLICY ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION.”;

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in line 23, strike the bracket; in the same line, strike “1 year” and substitute “**6 YEARS**”; in line 25, strike “22” and substitute “**26**”; strike beginning with “Have” in line 26 down through “(5)】” in line 28; and in line 29, strike “**(3)**” and substitute “**(5)**”.

On page 4, in line 1, strike “**(4)**” and substitute “**(6)**”; in line 7, strike “165” and substitute “**145**”; in lines 9, 14, and 15, in each instance, strike the bracket; in line 9, strike “1 year” and substitute “**6 YEARS**”; in line 12, strike “22” and substitute “**26**”; and in line 15, strike “**(III)**”.

On page 5, in line 26, after “**FREE**” insert “**OR REDUCED-PRICE**”.

On page 8, in line 24, after “**(D)**” insert “**(1)**”; in line 26, strike “**FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT**” and substitute “**PELL-ELIGIBLE**”; in line 27, strike “, AS DEFINED IN § 16-305(B)(7) OF THIS ARTICLE,”; and after line 29, insert:

“(2) IF A COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOES NOT AWARD ALL FUNDING ALLOCATED TO THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE REMAINING FUNDING TO OTHER COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO MAKE MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS TO STUDENTS IN THE AWARD YEAR.”

On pages 14 through 18, strike in their entirety the lines beginning with line 8 on page 14 through line 16 on page 18, inclusive, and substitute:

“18-303.4.

(A) (1) BEGINNING WHEN FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE EACH YEAR, BUT NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE OFFICE SHALL COMPILE AND CERTIFY LISTS FOR THE ENTIRE STATE THAT RANK APPLICANTS FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARD BY FINANCIAL NEED.

(Over)

(2) REGULARLY, THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THE LISTS COMPILED AND CERTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) (1) EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL USE THE LISTS PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, AND THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER §§ 18-303 AND 18-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO DETERMINE THE APPLICANTS WHO SHALL BE OFFERED A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARD BY THE INSTITUTION AND THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD.

(2) THE INSTITUTION SHALL SEND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATION TO AN APPLICANT TO OFFER THE APPLICANT A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARD.

(C) AN APPLICANT MAY ACCEPT THE OFFER OF A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARD FROM AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(D) (1) EACH SEMESTER, EACH INSTITUTION SHALL SUBMIT TO THE OFFICE A LIST OF THE STUDENTS WHO WERE AWARDED A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT FOR THE SEMESTER AND THE AMOUNTS AWARDED.

(2) THE OFFICE SHALL REIMBURSE EACH INSTITUTION FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARDS ON THE LIST SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(E) (1) (I) THE OFFICE SHALL COMPILE AND CERTIFY LISTS OF STUDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT AWARD AND ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A RENEWAL AWARD.

(II) THE OFFICE SHALL PROVIDE TO EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE THE LISTS COMPILED AND CERTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(2) (I) EACH INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL USE THE LISTS PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AND THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER §§ 18-303 AND 18-304 OF THIS SUBTITLE, TO DETERMINE THE STUDENTS WHO SHALL BE OFFERED A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT RENEWAL AWARD BY THE INSTITUTION.

(II) THE INSTITUTION SHALL SEND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATION TO A STUDENT TO OFFER THE STUDENT A GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT RENEWAL AWARD.

(3) THE OFFICE SHALL REIMBURSE EACH INSTITUTION FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT RENEWAL AWARDS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(F) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.”.

On page 18, in lines 22 and 23, strike “THAT COMPLIES WITH § 18-303.3 OF THIS SUBTITLE”.

On page 20, in lines 8 and 9, strike “AN AWARD LETTER” and substitute “THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD NOTIFICATION”; in line 20, strike “(d)” and substitute “(C)”;

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and in lines 23 and 24, strike “**AFTER AWARDS FROM INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAVE BEEN MADE AND ACCEPTED FOR THE GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT, THE**” and substitute “**THE**”.

On page 21, in line 25, strike the first comma and substitute “:

(1)”;

and in line 27, after “Act” insert “; and

(2) the Maryland Higher Education Commission shall work with the Segmental Advisory Council and the Financial Assistance Advisory Council to establish regulations to implement Section 2 of this Act, including award deadlines and procedures for renewal awards”.