

HB0923/783221/1

BY: Appropriations Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 923

(Bill as Printed for Third Reading)

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; and in lines 16 and 17, strike “in the State” and substitute “, and accommodations at public institutions for religious beliefs”.

On page 2, in line 3, strike “18-303.4 and” and substitute “15-136, 18-303.4, and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, after line 6, 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."