

SENATE BILL 84

P4, F5
SB 166/25 – FIN

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1152
CF HB 141

By: **Senators Kramer and Lam**

Requested: October 10, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Personnel – Collective Bargaining – Graduate Assistants**

3 FOR the purpose of providing collective bargaining rights to certain graduate assistants at
4 certain public institutions of higher education; establishing a separate collective
5 bargaining unit for the graduate assistants; and generally relating to collective
6 bargaining for graduate assistants at public institutions of higher education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
9 Section 3–101 and 3–102(b)(9) and (d)(2)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – State Personnel and Pensions**

15 3–101.

16 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (b) “Board” means the Public Employee Relations Board.

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 (c) “Chancellor” has the meaning stated in § 12–101 of the Education Article.

2 (d) “Collective bargaining” means:

3 (1) good faith negotiations by authorized representatives of employees and
4 their employer with the intention of:

5 (i) 1. reaching an agreement about wages, hours, and other
6 terms and conditions of employment; and

7 2. incorporating the terms of the agreement in a written
8 memorandum of understanding or other written understanding; or

9 (ii) clarifying terms and conditions of employment;

10 (2) administration of terms and conditions of employment; or

11 (3) the voluntary adjustment of a dispute or disagreement between
12 authorized representatives of employees and their employer that arises under a
13 memorandum of understanding or other written understanding.

14 (e) “Employee organization” has the meaning stated in § 22–101 of the State
15 Government Article.

16 (f) “Exclusive representative” has the meaning stated in § 22–101 of the State
17 Government Article.

18 (g) (1) “Faculty at the Maryland School for the Deaf” means employees who
19 have been granted the following status by the Board of Trustees of the Maryland School for
20 the Deaf:

21 (i) after–school program counselors;

22 (ii) American Sign Language specialists;

23 (iii) athletic trainers;

24 (iv) behavior specialists;

25 (v) clerical aides;

26 (vi) dorm counselors;

27 (vii) employment specialists;

28 (viii) instructional technology resource specialists;

- 1 (ix) librarians;
- 2 (x) literacy and reading specialists;
- 3 (xi) occupational therapists;
- 4 (xii) orientation and mobility specialists;
- 5 (xiii) physical therapists;
- 6 (xiv) school counselors;
- 7 (xv) school IEP coordinators;
- 8 (xvi) school nurses;
- 9 (xvii) school social workers;
- 10 (xviii) speech–language pathologists;
- 11 (xix) student support specialists;
- 12 (xx) teachers;
- 13 (xxi) teacher aides;
- 14 (xxii) transition coordinators; and
- 15 (xxiii) work–to–learn specialists.

16 (2) “Faculty at the Maryland School for the Deaf” does not include officers
17 or supervisory employees at the Maryland School for the Deaf.

18 (H) “GRADUATE ASSISTANT” MEANS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT ~~A SYSTEM~~
19 ~~INSTITUTION, MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, OR ST. MARY’S COLLEGE OF~~
20 ~~MARYLAND~~ THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK OR THE UNIVERSITY
21 OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY WHO IS A TEACHING, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR
22 RESEARCH ASSISTANT OR IN A COMPARABLE POSITION, A FELLOW, OR A
23 POSTDOCTORAL INTERN.

24 [(h)] (I) “President” means:

25 (1) with regard to a constituent institution, as defined in § 12–101 of the
26 Education Article, the president of the constituent institution;

1 (2) with regard to a center or institute, as those terms are defined in §
2 12–101 of the Education Article, the president of the center or institute;

3 (3) with regard to the University System of Maryland Office, the
4 Chancellor of the University System of Maryland; and

5 (4) with regard to Morgan State University, St. Mary’s College of
6 Maryland, and Baltimore City Community College, the president of the institution.

7 **[(i)] (J)** “System institution” means:

8 (1) a constituent institution, as defined in § 12–101 of the Education
9 Article;

10 (2) a center or institute, as those terms are defined in § 12–101 of the
11 Education Article; and

12 (3) the University System of Maryland Office.

13 3–102.

14 (b) This title does not apply to:

15 (9) an employee of the University System of Maryland, Morgan State
16 University, St. Mary’s College of Maryland, or Baltimore City Community College who is:

17 (i) a chief administrator or in a comparable position;

18 (ii) a deputy, associate, or assistant administrator or in a
19 comparable position;

20 (iii) a member of the faculty, including a faculty librarian;

21 (iv) ~~[(a)] AN UNDERGRADUATE~~ student employee~~],~~ including a
22 teaching assistant or a comparable position, fellow, or post–doctoral intern~~],~~ **EXCEPT FOR**
23 **A GRADUATE ASSISTANT;**

24 (v) a contingent, contractual, temporary, or emergency employee,
25 **EXCEPT FOR A GRADUATE ASSISTANT;**

26 (vi) a contingent, contractual, or temporary employee whose position
27 is funded through a research or service grant or contract, or through clinical revenues,
28 ~~**EXCEPT FOR A GRADUATE ASSISTANT;**~~ or

29 (vii) an employee whose regular place of employment is outside the
30 State of Maryland;

1 (d) (2) (i) Each system institution, Morgan State University, St. Mary's
2 College of Maryland, and Baltimore City Community College shall have separate
3 bargaining units.

4 (ii) Appropriate bargaining units shall consist of:

5 1. all eligible nonexempt employees, as described in the
6 federal Fair Labor Standards Act, except eligible sworn police officers;

7 2. all eligible exempt employees, as described in the federal
8 Fair Labor Standards Act; [and]

9 3. all eligible sworn police officers; AND

10 4. ALL ELIGIBLE GRADUATE ASSISTANTS.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
12 1, ~~2026~~ 2028.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.