

SENATE BILL 383

F2
HB 1138/25 – APP

6lr2161
CF HB 28

By: **Senators Watson, Muse, and West**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Private Career Schools – Advertising**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Secretary of Higher Education to allow certain private
4 career schools to advertise certain information and collect certain contact
5 information before receiving a certificate of approval from the Maryland Higher
6 Education Commission to operate a private career school in the State; and generally
7 relating to private career schools.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 10–101(a) and (j)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Education
15 Section 11–212
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 10–101.

22 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (j) “Private career school” means a privately owned and privately operated
24 institution of postsecondary education other than an institution of higher education that

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



furnishes or offers to furnish programs, whether or not requiring a payment of tuition or fee, for the purpose of training, retraining, or upgrading individuals for gainful employment as skilled or semiskilled workers or technicians in recognized occupations or in new and emerging occupations.

11-212.

(A) THE SECRETARY MAY APPROVE A REQUEST FROM AN APPLICANT FOR A PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL TO ADVERTISE AND COLLECT CONTACT INFORMATION FROM POTENTIAL NEW STUDENTS BEFORE THE PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO OPERATE.

(B) A PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL APPROVED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION:

(1) SHALL:

(I) ADVERTISE ONLY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE OPENING OF THE PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE ANTICIPATED DATE OF OPENING, PROGRAMS OF INSTRUCTION, AND THE APPLICATION PROCESS; AND

(II) INCLUDE, IN ANY ADVERTISEMENT, A DISCLOSURE THAT THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO OPERATE THE PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL IS PENDING APPROVAL; AND

(2) MAY NOT COLLECT ANY FEES OR ENTER INTO AN ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT WITH POTENTIAL STUDENTS.

(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS PROVIDING FOR THE PROCESS TO APPROVE A PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL TO ADVERTISE UNDER THIS SECTION.

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