



**HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**House Bill 419**  
**Higher Education -Report on Collection Practices for Unpaid Fees and Services**  
**Patrick Hogan, Vice Chancellor Government Relations**  
**Unfavorable Report**

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 419. The bill requires public, private, and for-profit institutions of higher education to collect specified data on unpaid fees and services owed by current students and graduates, including the number of academic transcripts, grade reports, diplomas, and any other information related to coursework or educational degrees withheld by an institution due to a student's unpaid fees and services.

This legislation would have a significant financial impact on institutions of higher education. The bill would require functional and technical resources to assess the determinations of the bill. Our institution's student billing systems are not currently formatted to collect most of the information that would be required to be retrieved from other third-party systems and testing of the data to ensure accuracy would need to be completed. Staffing resources for point of contact and data management will be necessary in order to identify, extract, transfer, and load the data. One institution estimates 80-100 hours of initial research by current staff in the Bursar's office to determine the feasibility of the required data collection.

Currently, USM institutions are required to transfer all delinquent student accounts to the Central Collection Unit of the State of Maryland (CCU). Typically, the delinquent accounts may include tuition, mandatory fees, room, meal plans, parking permits and parking fines. While we understand that the suspension of transcripts and other official documents can be impactful to our students, we work diligently to provide flexible repayment options.

The USM urges an Unfavorable Report.