



**Larry Hogan**  
Governor

**Boyd K. Rutherford**  
Lt. Governor

**Andrew R. Smarick**  
Chair

**James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.**  
Secretary

**Bill Number:** Senate Bill 437

**Position:** Letter of Information

**Title:** Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data – Pregnant and Parenting Students

**Committee:** Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

**Hearing Date:** February 25, 2021

**Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill 437 would include data on pregnant and parenting students in the data collected, organized, managed, disaggregated, reported on, and analyzed by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center; and altering the types of records excluded from the definition of “student data” for purposes of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System.

**Position:**

Senate Bill 437 alters the definition of “student data” -- for the purposes of Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center -- to include data on whether a student is or has been pregnant or is a parenting student. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has no intent to collect this information from postsecondary institutions; it is MHEC’s understanding that Senate Bill 437 is directly related to House Bill 401, which establishes new policies for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) regarding pregnant or parenting students and not adult pregnant students or parents attending institutions of higher education. Again, MHEC has no intent to collect this information from postsecondary institutions.

For further information, contact Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, at [Emily.dow@maryland.gov](mailto:Emily.dow@maryland.gov).