



HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

House Bill 700

Education - Disruption of School Activities - Repeal of Prohibition

February 10, 2021

Unfavorable Report

Andy Clark, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Government Relations

Chair Kaiser, Vice Chair Washington, and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on House Bill 700.

House Bill 700 will have an adverse fiscal impact on the University of Maryland, College Park and the amount is simply too difficult to quantify. The bill invites the general population to interrupt the range of university activities (from individual courses and cultural events to athletics games and functions in the chapel), which could have a tremendous negative fiscal and operational impact on the campus.

For example, at institutions like Frostburg State University and Coppin State University, this would likely lead to additional public safety activities, overtime, additional personnel, and equipment. On the academic side, also with the prohibitions it could increase disruptive behavior in the classroom that takes away instructional time and loss of productivity on the staff side. Not to mention, there could be additional administrative costs and resources used.

Towson University states, that from an *“Office of Public Safety perspective, we apply the current statute wording as means to manage third party entities, outside the university community, who engage in willfully disruptive behavior to disrupt the university's operation. We do not apply this statute to members of our community, such as students and faculty who are guided by internal policy and code of conduct. Removal of the proposed language would, under this statute, allow a person to willfully disturb or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly conduct of activities, administration and classes at the university.*

Thank you for allowing the USM to share our thoughts regarding House Bill 700 and we urge an unfavorable report.