



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 620

**Higher Education – Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures –
Workgroup Study (Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act)**

March 8, 2022

**Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Letter of Information**

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 620. The bill establishes a workgroup to study articulation agreements and transfer protocols between community colleges and four-year institutions. It also requires the workgroup to make recommendations and report its findings to the Governor and the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House by January 1, 2023.

Articulation agreements and transfer credits are the purview of the academic programs at four-year institutions, so it is the Provosts/VP for Academic Affairs that are the appropriate persons to be involved in the examination of processes and procedures in transfer and the development of articulation agreements. Currently, there is a Provost Transfer Council with representatives from community colleges and institutions in the University System of Maryland (USM) that meet on a regular basis to discuss these issues. The Provost Transfer Council is actively engaged in discussion about challenges remaining in the process of student transfer.

USM institutions have more than 850 active articulation agreements, demonstrating the interest in and importance of such agreements in the establishment of pipeline programs for students starting at a community college and then transferring to a four-year institution.

The ARTSYS transfer platform that facilitates all transfer processes in the state is housed and managed by the USM Office of Academic Affairs, and any conversations regarding transfer processes must logically include those personnel. MHEC has never been responsible for the transfer platform, and USM has been managing the platform without state support for 30 years. We look forward to the day when there is sufficient state support to expand and improve the platform to address many of the challenges that students now face.

Should it be recommended that we expand the Provost Transfer Council, the USM and the Community College would accommodate that request, but the establishment of a separate parallel study process would be counterproductive.

Thank you for allowing the USM to share our view regarding Senate Bill 620.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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