



BILL: HB 912 - Institutions of Higher Education - Instructor Training - Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

CONTACT: Jaden Farris, Chief of Staff — jadenfarris@umbc.edu

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County Student Government Association represents over 10,000 undergraduate students and is committed to ensuring that academic environments are inclusive and accessible for all students. Therefore, we strongly support House Bill 912.

Students with disabilities face systemic challenges in accessing education without undue burden. While legal protections exist under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, a lack of instructor awareness and training often leads to unintentional barriers.

HB 912 addresses this by requiring institutions to provide the necessary training for faculty so that they are aware of their obligations and can adequately support students with disabilities.

One UMBC student shared their experience with SGA:

“I am a student going into my third year at college at UMBC. Requiring that instructors learn how to properly accommodate students in the classroom is a must. My accommodations have allowed me to excel in classes that I may not have otherwise performed well in. I am a scholar student and a leader in many clubs. I am grateful to have the opportunity to reach these successes with the right support. I have had some instances of pushback from professors regarding my accommodations, so having this be a standard will encourage systemic reorganization of instructor training. It would be great if accommodation training was always a part of general training and instructors were knowledgeable, not doubting the student or putting that stress on the student to have to fight for what they need themselves.”

This is just one example of the many stories shared by UMBC students and those across USM institutions. HB 912 empowers students with disabilities and guarantees the rights of all students to experience higher education without undue burden.

For these reasons, the UMBC SGA urges a **favorable report on House Bill 912**.



sga.umbc.edu



[@umbcsga](https://www.instagram.com/umbcsga)



facebook.com/umbcsga



sga@umbc.edu