



BILL: HB912 - Institutions of Higher Education - Instructor Training - Accommodations for Students With Disabilities

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2025

POSITION: FAVORABLE

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The University System of Maryland Student Councils(USMSC) represents over 170,000 undergraduate and graduate students across the System's 12 institutions and 3 regional higher education centers. We are committed to ensuring that academic environments are inclusive and accessible for all students.

As such, the USMSC strongly **supports** House Bill 912, which ensures adequate training for instructors at higher education institutions on their responsibilities toward students with disabilities.

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.

Many students have faced resistance or skepticism from instructors regarding their accommodations, which puts undue pressure on them to self-advocate for their needs. HB 912 addresses this issue by requiring institutions to provide faculty with essential training, ensuring that all instructors understand their obligations and can adequately support students with disabilities.

For these reasons, the USMSC respectfully urges a **favorable report** on House Bill 912.



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