

Here are some bills that have come up this legislative session that may be of interest. Some of them have been withdrawn but are included still to highlight the types of legislation that has been proposed and potentially impactful to the USM. While there are numerous bills that have been proposed, these are a few. A final report from the USM of all legislation that will affect the system should come out soon.

Legislative Session Items of interest

House Bill 767/Senate 696: would have required the Chancellor of the USM to act on behalf of USM and its constituent institutions, rather than the institutions' presidents under current law, for the purposes of collective bargaining. The bill would have also revoked the authority of the twelve USM institution presidents to designate a representative to negotiate on behalf of their institution. *The House bill received an unfavorable report in House Appropriations and was subsequently withdrawn by the sponsor.*

House Bill 205: requires each institution of higher education that receives State funds to develop and implement an academic forgiveness policy by August 1, 2019. The academic forgiveness policy must disregard an applicant's unsatisfactory or failing grades earned at a prior institution seven or more years before the applicant submits an application, if the applicant chooses to participate in the policy. *Unfavorable Report by Appropriations Committee.*

House Bill 328: requires public four-year and private nonprofit institutions of higher education in the State to provide notice to a student within 30 days after a student's acceptance and before reducing a student's institutional gift aid on (1) whether acceptance of additional gift aid may result in a reduction of institutional gift aid and (2) how much additional gift aid the student may accept before the institutional gift aid will be reduced. *This bill was given an unfavorable report by the House Appropriations committee.*

House Bill 658/Senate Bill 755: requires the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to require each State agency or unit that uses interagency agreements to establish a goal that at least 5% of each agency's or unit's total annual interagency agreement expenditures be awarded to the State's historically black institutions. DBM may issue a waiver of the 5% goal if an agency or unit provides a reasonable demonstration of good faith efforts to achieve the goal. DBM must also report annually on specified information about interagency agreements with HBCUs. *The house bill passed favorably with amendments in House Appropriations Committee.*

Senate Bill 843: repeals provisions of current local law relating to the Civilian Review Board of Baltimore City. This proposed legislation attempts to grant to a Baltimore City panel oversight and accountability responsibilities for state-employed police officers working in Baltimore City. This bill essentially extends city oversight to USM law enforcement which are state employees and not under the authority of the Baltimore City Police Commissioner.

Senate Bill 88: bill establishes several initiatives intended to reduce student debt in the State, including (1) establishing the Maryland Promise Plus Scholarship; (2) creating a State income tax subtraction modification for 100% of the interest paid on a qualified student loan in the taxable year; and (3) expanding the existing college savings plan and Maryland Prepaid College Trust income tax subtraction modifications.

House Bill 381: bill repeals the one-year residency requirement for public four-year institutions to grant a student in-state tuition. Instead, the bill requires all public institutions of higher education to determine that a student meets the residency requirement for in-state tuition, except as provided in Chapter 191 of 2011 (known as the Dream Act), if the student provides evidence that the student (1) graduated from a public or nonpublic high school in the State or received the equivalent of a high school diploma; (2) resides at an address in the State; and (3) possesses a Social Security number. *The House bill received an unfavorable report in House Appropriations and was subsequently withdrawn by the sponsor.*

Senate Bill 588: a consequence to this bill is that it would require either the adoption of open educational resources (OER) or that the institution pay for instructional materials. Recommendation is to amend the bill to recommend (not require) the use of OER for these courses and that the participating institutions be required to work with the M.O.S.T. initiative (Maryland Open Source Textbook) either to locate high-quality, openly licensed materials and/or to create materials where none exist with the intent of striking the optimal balance between affordability and achievement

House Bill 288: This bill requires a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland (USM) to remove, suspend, or demote a regular full-time or part-time employee who is not on probation only (1) for cause, (2) on written charges, and (3) in accordance with the subtitle. For an employee who is represented by an exclusive representative for collective bargaining purposes, what constitutes cause must be collectively bargained. For an employee who is not represented by an exclusive representative, USM may only remove, suspend, or demote the employee in accordance with the provisions of Title 11 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article that apply to State employees in the skilled and professional services. The bill also clarifies that USM may not remove, suspend, or demote a regular full-time or part-time employee for any reason prohibited by State antidiscrimination law as specified.

To see any of these bills in full you can search them on the Maryland General Assembly website by clicking [HERE](#) and searching by the bill number. (House Bill 123 will be searched by HB123)