

SENATE BILL 540

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2lr1835
CF HB 598

By: **Senators Elfreth, Hester, Hershey, Ready, and Reilly**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 2, 2022

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Transfer Platform – Established**
3 **(Transfer With Success Act 2.0)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each community college and certain 4-year ~~institution~~
5 institutions of higher education that ~~receives~~ receive State funds to participate in a
6 transfer platform that the Maryland Higher Education Commission establishes to
7 facilitate the transfer of students from community colleges to 4-year institutions of
8 higher education; adding a certain requirement to certain transfer procedures
9 established by the Commission; altering a certain report that must be submitted by
10 public institutions of higher education; and generally relating to the transfer of
11 credits from community colleges to 4-year institutions of higher education.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Education
14 Section 11–207
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 11–207.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (a) The Commission shall:

2 (1) Establish procedures for transfer of students between the public
3 segments of postsecondary education;

4 (2) Recommend cooperative programs among segments of postsecondary
5 education to assure appropriate flexibility in the higher education system; and

6 (3) In conjunction with the governing boards, establish standards for
7 articulation agreements.

8 (b) **(1)** The procedures established under subsection (a) of this section shall
9 require:

10 **(I) A RECEIVING INSTITUTION TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER OF**
11 **A CREDIT OR COURSE FROM A SENDING INSTITUTION IF AT LEAST 70% OF THE**
12 **LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE CREDIT OR COURSE ARE EQUIVALENT;**

13 ~~(II)~~ **(II)** A receiving institution that denies the transfer of a credit or
14 course to an enrolled student to notify the transfer coordinator or institutional designee of
15 the sending institution and the enrolled student about the denial within a time period that
16 the Commission determines to be the latest possible time for the notification and specify
17 the rationale for the denial;

18 ~~(III)~~ **(III)** The transfer coordinator or institutional designee of the sending
19 institution, after receiving notice of a denial of the transfer of a credit or course, in
20 conjunction with the receiving institution's designee, to conduct a review within a time
21 period the Commission determines to be appropriate; and

22 ~~(IV)~~ ~~(I)~~ **(IV)** Each public institution of higher education to submit an
23 annual report to the Commission listing any denials of the transfer of a credit or course and
24 the reasons for the denials.

25 ~~(II)~~ **(2)** **IF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
26 **DOES NOT HONOR THE INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM ESTABLISHED**
27 **UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THE INSTITUTION SHALL REPORT THE**
28 **FAILURE TO HONOR INFORMATION IN THE PLATFORM AS A DENIAL OF TRANSFER**
29 **CREDIT ON THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER ~~SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS~~**
30 **~~PARAGRAPH~~ PARAGRAPH (1)(IV) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

31 (c) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher
32 education, shall develop and implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby at least
33 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses that a student earns at any
34 community college in the State toward an associate of arts or associate of science degree
35 shall be transferable to any public senior higher education institution in the State for credit
36 toward a bachelor's degree by July 1, 2016.

1 (d) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher
2 education, shall develop and implement a statewide reverse transfer agreement whereby
3 at least 30 credits that a student earns at any public senior higher education institution in
4 the State toward a bachelor's degree are transferable to any community college in the State
5 for credit toward an associate's degree by July 1, 2016.

6 (e) The Commission and each public institution of higher education shall develop
7 and implement incentives for students to obtain an associate's degree before enrolling in a
8 public senior institution of higher education.

9 (f) The Commission may recommend procedures and guidelines for consideration
10 by the governing boards of institutions of postsecondary education on:

11 (1) Improvement and coordination of student financial assistance
12 programs; and

13 (2) Other subjects of general interest and concern to the higher education
14 community in the State.

15 (G) (1) **(I) EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PUBLIC 4-YEAR**
16 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ~~THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS~~ SHALL**
17 **PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
18 **THIS SUBSECTION.**

19 **(II) A NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT**
20 **RECEIVES STATE FUNDS:**

21 **1. SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM**
22 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION IF THE NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION HAS A**
23 **TOTAL OF AT LEAST 50 STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO THE NONPUBLIC INSTITUTION**
24 **FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE; OR**

25 **2. MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM**
26 **REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO THE NONPUBLIC**
27 **INSTITUTION FROM A COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN THE STATE.**

28 (2) (I) **THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A TRANSFER**
29 **PLATFORM TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF STUDENTS FROM COMMUNITY**
30 **COLLEGES TO 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.**

31 (II) ~~IF~~ **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,**
32 **IF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAS A SIMILAR TRANSFER PLATFORM,**
33 **THE COMMISSION SHALL DELEGATE THE DESIGN OR ESTABLISHMENT OF THE**
34 **PLATFORM TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.**

1 **(III) IF THE DESIGN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSFER**
 2 **PLATFORM IS DELEGATED TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND:**

3 **1. THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND SHALL**
 4 **ADHERE TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSFER PLATFORM UNDER THIS**
 5 **PARAGRAPH; AND**

6 **2. THE COMMISSION SHALL RETAIN:**

7 **A. ENFORCEMENT CONTROL OF THE TRANSFER**
 8 **PLATFORM; AND**

9 **B. ACCESS TO ALL DATA IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM.**

10 **(3) THE TRANSFER PLATFORM SHALL:**

11 **(I) ALLOW STUDENTS AND ADVISORS TO DETERMINE IF A**
 12 **COURSE WILL TRANSFER FROM ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ANY 4-YEAR**
 13 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE TRANSFER**
 14 **PLATFORM;**

15 **(II) PROVIDE RECOMMENDED COURSES TO STUDENTS FOR**
 16 **SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**
 17 **AND**

18 **(III) INCLUDE ~~A TRANSCRIPT OPTION~~ OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS**
 19 **THAT:**

20 ~~**1. DETERMINES THE STATUS OF COURSES;**~~

21 ~~**2. 1. COMPARES COURSES WITH RECOMMENDED**~~
 22 ~~**TRANSFER PROGRAMS; AND**~~ **AT AN INSTITUTION WITH RECOMMENDED**
 23 **ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS;**

24 ~~**3. COMPUTES GRADE POINT AVERAGES.**~~

25 **2. ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH ACCOUNTS;**

26 **3. ALLOWS ACCESS TO SAVED SEARCHES FOR TRANSFER**
 27 **PROGRAMS AND COURSES;**

28 **4. PROVIDES TRANSFER PROGRAMS FOR**
 29 **NEAR-COMPLETERS;**

1 **5. PROVIDES REVERSE TRANSFER ACCOUNTABILITY**
2 **FOR STUDENTS;**

3 **6. PROVIDES ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR**
4 **INSTITUTIONS TO WHICH STUDENTS SEEK TO TRANSFER; AND**

5 **7. ALLOWS ACCESS THROUGH MOBILE DEVICES.**

6 (4) **EACH ~~4-YEAR~~ INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL:**

7 **(I) HONOR ALL INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM,**
8 **INCLUDING TRANSFER INFORMATION, UNLESS AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM NO LONGER**
9 **EXISTS;**

10 **(II) UPDATE ALL COURSE INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER**
11 **PLATFORM WITHIN 60 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF A COURSE EVALUATION REQUEST;**

12 **(III) COMPLETE ALL TRANSFER EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED**
13 **THROUGH THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BEFORE REGISTERING A STUDENT FOR A**
14 **COURSE; AND**

15 **(IV) REMOVE ANY CREDITS, COURSES, OR INACCURATE**
16 **INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BEFORE EACH ACADEMIC YEAR AND**
17 **NOT MORE THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE ADDITION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC**
18 **PROGRAM.**

19 (5) **EACH RECEIVING INSTITUTION SHALL REVIEW ALL COURSE**
20 **EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BY A SENDING**
21 **INSTITUTION AND PROVIDE DECISIONS TO THE SENDING INSTITUTION IN THE**
22 **TRANSFER PLATFORM.**

23 ~~**(6) (i) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**~~
24 ~~**THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN**~~
25 ~~**APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF THE TRANSFER**~~
26 ~~**PLATFORM.**~~

27 ~~**(ii) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT CHARGE COMMUNITY**~~
28 ~~**COLLEGES OR 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION A FEE TO PARTICIPATE**~~
29 ~~**IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM.**~~

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2022.