



February 12, 2021

## **SESSION DAY OF NOTE**

Friday marked the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the 2021 legislative session's 90-day calendar. The Senate and House bill introduction dates have passed. Any bills introduced after this date are referred to the Senate or House Rules committees.

## **STUDENT "SCORECARD" TOPIC OF HOUSE DISCUSSION**

On Wednesday, in House Appropriations Committee, members heard testimony regarding House Bill 46. The bill requires the State Department of Education to collect information each year and publish a Student Horizon Scorecard

Currently, the US Department of Education (ED), has a comprehensive comparison tool that incorporates much of what is outlined for the Maryland scorecard. Here is the link to College Navigator: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

The University System of Maryland is confident that the federal standard is more useful because a prospective student can compare institutions across the country. The Maryland tool would be limited to only the schools in Maryland.

Graduation rates at the program level is problematic. Students often change their majors. For example, pre-nursing students who may drop out of a program but change majors and successfully complete in sociology. Additionally, USM institutions would be unable to report on low enrollment majors. Even if FERPA were not an issue, the rates would be very erratic because of the low headcounts.

Reporting starting salary data is problematic too. Not all students go right into the workforce. Some go to graduate school, some choose to work only part-time, some don't find employment right out of school. These are not included in the calculation, but the fewer students in the average again skews the numbers. Salisbury University, for example, collects this information through the first destination survey, but the calculation would be limited to those who respond and limited again to those who are working full-time maybe not necessarily in their degree major.

The higher level of detail in College Navigator really gives students a robust number of data points on which to compare institutions across the country. The data are sound because all of it comes from IPEDs submissions which are very clear in their definitions and reporting methodology. For this to be done properly, clear definitions and concise methodology will be required to avoid each institution interpreting the data request differently.

## **HOUSE BILL SEEKS TO ALTER REGENT MEMBERSHIP**

House Bill 184 was heard in House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday. The bill seeks to alter the membership of the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Maryland (USM) to increase the number of members.

The Board of Regents is a diverse body. There are 18 seated Regents at this time, and a third of the Board are from minority groups. The USM Regents are diverse in the backgrounds they bring to the Board. They hail from industry, public service, law, banking, business, and our student population. When faced with matters in which their expertise is light or lacking, the Board seeks external experts to inform and advise the body with issues of epidemiology and public health policy.

Currently, five Regents are African American, and one is Asian-American. We recognize that there are so many ways in which we can improve upon our diversity and do hope that future appointments consider opportunities to make the board more representative. Four Regents boast education from HBCUs. Regent Gourdine (Tougaloo College), Regent Johnson (Morgan State University), and Regent Leggett (Southern University and Howard University) are alumni of HBIs. One of the Board's Student Regents is a student at University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She follows – two years later – another Student Regent from UMES, Langston Frazier.

House Bill 184 seeks to codify the addition of regents with backgrounds in labor union organizing, immigration advocacy, and civil rights. However, there are many other key issues that would benefit from an individual regent's subject proficiency. What's to stop the pressure from adding areas of expertise – for instance, public health or pandemic preparedness.

The USM argued that the Regents remain a Board dedicated to the objective of governance and management of the University System of Maryland and its constituent institutions.

The Board is committed to ensuring that each of the USM's institutions receives due attention. Board meetings rotate on a schedule to ensure the Board has visited every campus in the system over a cycle of three years. They meet with each president throughout the year routinely and as needed. The Board recently implemented a Board liaison program that assigns a Regent to each campus to provide a deeper connection between the Board and individual campuses.

## **HOUSE BILL COULD IMPEDE LIVING AND LEARNING ON USM CAMPUSES**

On Wednesday in the House Ways and Means Committee, the University System of Maryland urged an unfavorable report on House Bill 700. House Bill 700 could have an adverse on institutions and the amount is simply too difficult to quantify. The bill invites the general population

to interrupt a range of university activities (from individual courses and cultural events to athletics games and social and religious functions), which could have a tremendous negative fiscal and operational impact on the campus.

Campuses would be compelled to divert public safety activities, overtime, additional personnel, and equipment. On the academic side, also with the prohibitions it could increase disruptive behavior in the classroom that takes away instructional time and loss of productivity on the staff side.

USM campuses apply the current statute as a means to manage third party entities, outside the university community, who engage in willfully disruptive behavior to disrupt the university's operation. This statute is not applied to members of a particular campus community, such as students and faculty who are guided by internal policy and code of conduct. The bill proposes removal current statutory language that would allow a person to willfully disturb or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly conduct of activities, administration and classes at a public institution of higher education.

### **UPCOMING BILL HEARINGS**

**Highlighted** items are those in the next week or two.

**HB0466 (SB0405)**

**Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information**

Delegate Palakovich Carr

In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

HB0534

**Public Health - Healthy Maryland Program – Establishment**

Delegate Acevero

In the House - Hearing 3/11 at 1:30 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

**HB0702**

**Higher Education - Standardized Tests - Prohibition of Use in Student Admissions**

Delegate Ivey

In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

**HB0723**

**Public Institutions of Higher Education – Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Individuals – Academic and Employment Opportunities**

Delegate Ivey

In the House - Hearing 2/24 at 1:30 p.m. (Appropriations)

Appropriations

**HB0756 (SB0922)**

**Office of Legislative Audits – Acceptance and Investigation of Allegations of Fraud, Waste, and Abuse**

Delegate Krimm

In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

HB0587 (SB0917)

**Department of Information Technology - Status of Information Technology and Cybersecurity in State Agencies – Reports**

Delegate Watson, R.

In the House - Hearing 2/17 at 1:30 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB0803 (SB0835)

**Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act**

Delegate Solomon

In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

HB1124 (SB0040)

**Higher Education - Richard W. Collins III Leadership with Honor Scholarship - Bowie State**

Delegate Harrison

In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:30 p.m.

Appropriations

SB0405 (HB0466)

**Higher Education - Student Identification Cards - Required Information**

Senator Augustine

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0437 (HB0359)

**Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Student Data - Pregnant and Parenting Students**

Senator Washington

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0439 (HB0125)

**Public Institutions of Higher Education - Student Athletes (Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)**

Senator Ready

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0526 (HB1268)

**Legal Education Success Collaborative – Established**

Senator McCray

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m. (Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Budget and Taxation

SB0554 (HB0246)

**Higher Education - Returned Peace Corps Volunteers - In-State Tuition**

Senator Young

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0584 (HB0046)

**Education - Student Horizon Database and Scorecard**

Senator Gallion

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0767 (HB0891)

**Higher Education - Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program – Established**

Senator Washington

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0800 (HB1337)

**Inmate Training and Job Act of 2021**

Senator Patterson

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0835 (HB0803)

**Facilitating University Transformations by Unifying Reductions in Emissions (FUTURE) Act**

Senator Rosapepe

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0845 (HB0905)

**Education – Workforce Development Sequence Scholarships – Eligibility**

Senator Benson

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0858

**Higher Education – Coppin State University – Funding**

Senator Hayes

In the Senate - Hearing 3/03 at 1:00 p.m.  
Budget and Taxation

SB0886 (HB0460)

**Transfer with Success Act**

Senator Elfreth

In the Senate - Hearing 2/25 at 11:00 a.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0895

**University System of Maryland - Student Fees - Review and Retention**

Senator Rosapepe

In the Senate - Hearing 3/09 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SB0927

**Institutions of Higher Education - Prohibition Against Incentive Payments - Foreign Student Exemption**

Senator Pinsky

In the Senate - First Reading Senate Rules

Rules