

# SENATE BILL 543

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CF HB 4

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By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Institutions of Higher Education – Admissions Standards – Prohibition on**  
3 **Consideration of Legacy Preference**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain institutions of higher education from considering a  
5 legacy preference as an eligible criterion for admissions standards at the institution;  
6 and generally relating to admissions standards and institutions of higher education.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Education  
9 Section 10–101(a) and (h)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 26–901 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 9. Consideration of Legacy  
15 Preference in the Admissions Process”  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 10–101.

22 (a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (h) (1) “Institution of higher education” means an institution of postsecondary  
2 education that generally limits enrollment to graduates of secondary schools, and awards  
3 degrees at either the associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level.

4 (2) “Institution of higher education” includes public, private nonprofit, and  
5 for-profit institutions of higher education.

6 **SUBTITLE 9. CONSIDERATION OF LEGACY PREFERENCE IN THE ADMISSIONS**  
7 **PROCESS.**

8 **26-901.**

9 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “LEGACY PREFERENCE” MEANS A PREFERENCE  
10 GIVEN TO AN APPLICANT TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION BY THE  
11 INSTITUTION BASED ON THE APPLICANT’S FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIP TO AN ALUM OF  
12 THE INSTITUTION.

13 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
14 THE STATE THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS.

15 (C) (1) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY NOT CONSIDER A  
16 LEGACY PREFERENCE AS AN ELIGIBLE CRITERION FOR ADMISSION STANDARDS TO  
17 THE INSTITUTION.

18 (2) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION MAY ASK APPLICANTS  
19 TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS TO ALUMS OF THE  
20 INSTITUTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING DATA.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
22 1, 2024.