

SENATE BILL 864

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4lr1787
CF HB 1020

By: **Senators King, Feldman, Kagan, Kelly, Kramer, Smith, Waldstreicher, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center – Designation as**
3 **Community of Innovation**

4 FOR the purpose of designating the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher
5 Education Center as the State’s Regional Higher Education Community of
6 Innovation; altering the purposes of the Universities at Shady Grove; and generally
7 relating to the Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 12–119
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) is a regional higher education
15 center within the University System of Maryland (USM) that offers undergraduate and
16 graduate degree programs in partnership with the universities of USM, and provides
17 pathways to affordable high–quality public higher education to meet the workforce and
18 economic development needs of the region; and

19 WHEREAS, USG has had over 20 years of success in providing its students – many
20 of whom are nontraditional students – with innovative pathways to degree completion
21 while serving as a driver of talent and workforce development in the State; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2022, USG unveiled its first strategic plan, USG 2.0, in which it
23 provides a roadmap to scale the center’s highly successful delivery of career pathway
24 programs and identifies four strategic imperatives that include accountability for ensuring
25 students secure meaningful employment, building career pathways, sharpening its focus

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 on career readiness, and building a financial model that supports growth, innovation, and
2 collaboration; and

3 WHEREAS, USG's new strategic plan and mission positions the center to be an
4 incubator of innovation to plan, build, measure, assess, and strengthen student-centered
5 pathways for affordable and competitive education, career readiness, and student success,
6 and scale its student-centered focus; and

7 WHEREAS, A USG community of innovation addresses the shared challenge of
8 aligning higher education pathways with changing workforce priorities, as well as current
9 and future changing learner needs and priorities; and

10 WHEREAS, The community of innovation develops innovative and systemic
11 solutions that can be evaluated to continuously improve on meeting the challenge; and

12 WHEREAS, The return on investment is an accessible and affordable pathway for
13 every learner to build the workforce for the new Maryland economy, and a source of policy
14 innovation and learning for the State; now, therefore,

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 12–119.

19 (a) **IN THIS SECTION, “UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE” MEANS THE**
20 **UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER WITHIN**
21 **THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.**

22 **(B) (1)** There is a Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education
23 Center within the University System of Maryland.

24 **(2) THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS**
25 **THE STATE’S REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION IN**
26 **ORDER TO PROVIDE THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE WITH THE RECOGNITION**
27 **AND RESOURCES IT NEEDS TO IMPLEMENT AND SUSTAIN THE PURPOSES**
28 **ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS SECTION FOR ALL CURRENT AND**
29 **FUTURE STUDENTS.**

30 **[(b)] (C)** The purpose of the Universities at Shady Grove **[Regional Higher**
31 **Education Center]** is to **[provide]:**

32 **(1) PROVIDE** students access to established, cutting edge, and
33 high-demand academic programs of degree-granting institutions;

1 **(2) SERVE A DIVERSE CITIZENRY IN AN INNOVATIVE AND**
2 **COLLABORATIVE MANNER TO MEET THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE REGION; AND**

3 **(3) AS A COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION:**

4 **(I) BE A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND BUSINESS**
5 **LEADERS WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ENSURE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL'S ACADEMIC**
6 **SUCCESS LEADS DIRECTLY TO CAREER SUCCESS, RESULTING IN A CUMULATIVE**
7 **IMPACT THAT POSITIVELY TRANSFORMS THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTY, REGION,**
8 **AND STATE;**

9 **(II) OFFER CLASSES AND PROGRAMS THAT ARE LINKED**
10 **DIRECTLY TO MEANINGFUL JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS;**

11 **(III) PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO**
12 **SIMULTANEOUSLY BALANCE PERSONAL AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE**
13 **COMPLETING THEIR ACADEMIC GOALS;**

14 **(IV) DIRECTLY CONNECT STUDENTS WITH LOCAL AND**
15 **REGIONAL EMPLOYERS TO ENSURE THE STUDENTS MOVE SEAMLESSLY FROM THE**
16 **CLASSROOM TO THEIR CAREERS; AND**

17 **(V) HAVE PROGRAMS AND FACULTY THAT ARE NATIONALLY**
18 **AND INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLABORATION AND**
19 **ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS.**

20 **[(c)] (D) The academic programs offered at the Universities at Shady Grove**
21 **[Regional Higher Education Center] shall be upper division undergraduate and graduate**
22 **level programs and programs for advanced postgraduate certificates and credentials.**

23 **[(d)] (E) Funding for the Universities at Shady Grove [Regional Higher**
24 **Education Center] shall be as provided in the State budget IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A**
25 **LEVEL OF OPERATING FUNDING AND FACILITIES NECESSARY TO ADVANCE AND**
26 **SUSTAIN THE PURPOSES OF THE UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE ESTABLISHED**
27 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.**

28 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
29 **1, 2024.**