

HOUSE BILL 1352

J1, F2

5lr2101

By: **Delegates Patterson, Addison, Alston, Bartlett, Boafo, Boyce, Cardin, Ebersole, Harrison, Hill, Holmes, Ivey, Kaiser, J. Long, McCaskill, McComas, Mireku–North, Pasteur, Phillips, Roberson, Ruff, Taylor, Toles, Turner, Wells, White Holland, Wims, and Woods**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Sickle Cell Disease – Institutions of Higher Education – Policies, Procedures,**
3 **and Educational Campaigns**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting an institution of higher education from denying access or
5 services to a student based on the student’s diagnosis of sickle cell disease; requiring
6 an institution of higher education to provide reasonable accommodations for
7 students with sickle cell disease; requiring the Maryland Department of Health to
8 develop an education and awareness campaign for institutions of higher education
9 in the State regarding students with sickle cell disease; requiring the Department,
10 in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to develop
11 uniform procedures for institutions of higher education in the State to follow in
12 assessing, supporting, and treating students with sickle cell disease; requiring the
13 Department to develop or compile materials to provide a comprehensive education
14 on sickle cell disease to certain faculty and staff at institutions of higher education
15 in the State; and generally relating to sickle cell disease and institutions of higher
16 education.

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Education
19 Section 15–140
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Health – General
24 Section 18–510 through 18–512
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 **15–140.**

5 (A) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION:

6 (1) SHALL PROVIDE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS TO A STUDENT
7 WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE; AND

8 (2) MAY NOT DENY ACCESS TO FACILITIES OR SERVICES TO A
9 STUDENT BASED ON THE STUDENT’S DIAGNOSIS OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE.

10 (B) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ESTABLISH A
11 PROCEDURE THROUGH WHICH A PERSON MAY REPORT AN ALLEGED VIOLATION OF
12 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

13 (C) AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PUBLICIZE IN A
14 MANNER THAT IS CLEAR AND ACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS:

15 (1) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; AND

16 (2) THE REPORTING PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION
17 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

18 **Article – Health – General**

19 **18–510.**

20 (A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE
21 TREATMENT PROVIDERS AND COMMUNITY–BASED ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL
22 DEVELOP AN EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR INSTITUTIONS OF
23 HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE REGARDING STUDENTS WITH SICKLE CELL
24 DISEASE.

25 (B) THE PROGRAM DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
26 SHALL:

27 (1) DESCRIBE CHALLENGES FACED BY YOUNG ADULTS LIVING WITH
28 SICKLE CELL DISEASE, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CHALLENGES FACED DURING HEALTH
29 CRISES RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE; AND

1 **(2) PROVIDE INFORMATION ON ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT**
2 **THAT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION CAN PROVIDE TO STUDENTS WITH**
3 **SICKLE CELL DISEASE TO ENABLE THE STUDENTS TO SUCCEED ACADEMICALLY**
4 **WHILE MANAGING SICKLE CELL DISEASE.**

5 **18-511.**

6 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND HIGHER**
7 **EDUCATION COMMISSION, SHALL DEVELOP UNIFORM PROCEDURES FOR**
8 **INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE TO FOLLOW IN ASSESSING,**
9 **SUPPORTING, AND TREATING STUDENTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE.**

10 **(B) THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION**
11 **COMMISSION JOINTLY SHALL:**

12 **(1) BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2025, PROVIDE TECHNICAL**
13 **ASSISTANCE TO INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO:**

14 **(I) IMPLEMENT THE PROCEDURES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS**
15 **SECTION; AND**

16 **(II) INSTRUCT PERSONNEL OF INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**
17 **EDUCATION REGARDING THE PROCEDURES DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

18 **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, DEVELOP A PROCESS TO**
19 **MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROCEDURES BY INSTITUTIONS OF**
20 **HIGHER EDUCATION.**

21 **18-512.**

22 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP OR COMPILE MATERIALS TO**
23 **PROVIDE HEALTH PERSONNEL, FACULTY, AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EMPLOYED**
24 **AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE WITH A COMPREHENSIVE**
25 **EDUCATION ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE.**

26 **(B) THE MATERIALS DEVELOPED OR COMPILED UNDER THIS SECTION**
27 **SHALL FOCUS ON ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE,**
28 **REDUCING STIGMAS, AND FOSTERING A SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR**
29 **STUDENTS WITH SICKLE CELL DISEASE.**

1 **(C) EACH INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IS ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT**
2 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS BASED ON THE MATERIALS**
3 **DEVELOPED OR COMPILED UNDER THIS SECTION AS FINANCIAL RESOURCES ALLOW.**

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2025.