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SENATE BILL 540

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

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

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 4-year public institution of higher
5 education ~~that receives State funds~~, and authorizing private nonprofit institutions of higher
6 education to participate in a transfer platform that the
7 Maryland Higher Education Commission establishes to facilitate the transfer of
8 students from community colleges to 4-year institutions of higher education;
9 altering a certain report that must be submitted by public institutions of higher
10 education; and generally relating to the transfer of credits from community colleges
to 4-year institutions of higher education.

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

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

18 **Article - Education**

19 11-207.

20 (a) The Commission shall:

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

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

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

3 (b) The procedures established under subsection (a) of this section shall require:

4 (1) A receiving institution that denies the transfer of a credit or course to
5 an enrolled student to notify the transfer coordinator or institutional designee of the
6 sending institution and the enrolled student about the denial within a time period that the
7 Commission determines to be the latest possible time for the notification and specify the
8 rationale for the denial;

9 (2) The transfer coordinator or institutional designee of the sending
10 institution, after receiving notice of a denial of the transfer of a credit or course, in
11 conjunction with the receiving institution's designee, to conduct a review within a time
12 period the Commission determines to be appropriate; and

13 (3) **(I)** Each public institution of higher education to submit an annual
14 report to the Commission listing any denials of the transfer of a credit or course and the
15 reasons for the denials.

16 **(II) IF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DOES**
17 **NOT HONOR THE INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM ESTABLISHED UNDER**
18 **SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION, THE INSTITUTION SHALL REPORT THE FAILURE**
19 **TO HONOR INFORMATION IN THE PLATFORM AS A DENIAL OF TRANSFER CREDIT ON**
20 **THE ANNUAL REPORT SUBMITTED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.**

21 (c) The Commission, in collaboration with the public institutions of higher
22 education, shall develop and implement a statewide transfer agreement whereby at least
23 60 credits of general education, elective, and major courses that a student earns at any
24 community college in the State toward an associate of arts or associate of science degree
25 shall be transferable to any public senior higher education institution in the State for credit
26 toward a bachelor's degree by July 1, 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

5 (G) (1) ~~(I)~~ EACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND 4-YEAR PUBLIC INSTITUTION
 6 OF
 7 HIGHER EDUCATION ~~THAT RECEIVES STATE FUNDS~~ SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE
 8 TRANSFER PLATFORM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) A PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
 THE STATE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE
 WITH THIS SUBSECTION.

8 (2) ~~(#)~~ THE COMMISSION SHALL ~~ESTABLISH~~ DELEGATE TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
 9 OF MARYLAND, IN COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE, THE DESIGN OR
 10 ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSFER
 11 PLATFORM TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF STUDENTS FROM COMMUNITY
 12 COLLEGES TO 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE.

13 ~~(H) IF THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND HAS A SIMILAR
 14 TRANSFER PLATFORM, THE COMMISSION SHALL DELEGATE THE DESIGN OR
 15 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PLATFORM TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND.~~

16 (3) THE TRANSFER PLATFORM SHALL:

17 (I) ALLOW STUDENTS AND ADVISORS TO DETERMINE IF A
 18 COURSE WILL TRANSFER FROM ANY COMMUNITY COLLEGE TO ANY 4-YEAR
 19 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE TRANSFER
 20 PLATFORM;

21 (II) PROVIDE RECOMMENDED COURSES FOR SPECIFIC
 22 PROGRAMS OF STUDY AT 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION; AND

23 (III) INCLUDE A TRANSCRIPT OPTION FOR STUDENTS THAT:

24 1. ~~DETERMINES THE STATUS OF COURSES~~ ALLOWS STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH
 25 ACCOUNTS;

2. ALLOWS ACCESS TO SAVED SEARCHES FOR TRANSFER
PROGRAMS AND COURSES;

3. PROVIDES TRANSFER PROGRAMS FOR
NEAR-COMPLETERS;

4. PROVIDES REVERSE TRANSFER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR
STUDENTS;

5. PROVIDES ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS TO
WHICH STUDENTS SEEK TO TRANSFER; AND;

26 ~~2. 6.~~ COMPARES COURSES WITH RECOMMENDED
 27 TRANSFER PROGRAMS; ~~AND~~

28 ~~3.~~ COMPUTES GRADE POINT AVERAGES.

29 (4) EACH 4-YEAR INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE TRANSFER
 30 PLATFORM SHALL:

27 **(I) HONOR ALL INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM,**
28 **INCLUDING TRANSFER INFORMATION, UNLESS AN ACADEMIC PROGRAM NO LONGER**
29 **EXISTS;**

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

3 (III) COMPLETE ALL TRANSFER EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED
4 THROUGH THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BEFORE REGISTERING A STUDENT FOR A
5 COURSE; AND

6 (IV) REMOVE ANY CREDITS, COURSES, OR INACCURATE
7 INFORMATION IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BEFORE EACH ACADEMIC YEAR AND
8 NOT MORE THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE ADDITION OR TERMINATION OF AN ACADEMIC
9 PROGRAM.

10 (5) EACH RECEIVING INSTITUTION THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM
11 SHALL REVIEW ALL COURSE
12 EVALUATIONS SUBMITTED IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM BY A SENDING
13 INSTITUTION AND PROVIDE DECISIONS TO THE SENDING INSTITUTION IN THE
14 TRANSFER PLATFORM.

14 (6) (I) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR
15 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN
16 APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF THE TRANSFER
17 PLATFORM.

18 (II) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT CHARGE COMMUNITY
19 COLLEGES OR 4-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION A FEE TO PARTICIPATE
20 IN THE TRANSFER PLATFORM.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
22 1, 2022.