



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Senate Bill 540
Higher Education - Transfer Platform - Established (Transfer with Success Act 2.0)
March 2, 2022
Antoinette Coleman, Associate Vice Chancellor
Favorable with Amendment

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 540. The bill requires each community college and 4-year institution to participate in a transfer platform established to facilitate the transfer of students.

The University System of Maryland, Maryland Association of Community Colleges, Morgan State University, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Maryland Independent College and University participate in ARTSYS, The Articulation System for Maryland College and Universities administered by the University System of Maryland. ARTSYS as the statewide transfer platform facilitates the transfer of students from the community colleges to the public and participating private 4-year colleges and universities in Maryland. The burden to financially support ARTSYS is on the public and participating institutions.

Currently, the participating institutions are actively engaged in the implementation of a new state-of-the-art system to support the transfer for Maryland's community college students which is at a tremendous cost. The new ARTSYS will enable students to use any device to determine seamless transfer pathway program opportunities, establish accounts and conduct and save transcript evaluations of their courses to complete their associate's and bachelor's degrees at participating institutions, support near-completer students, provide reverse transfer services for eligible students, and as an academic and career advising support. Additionally, the platform streamlines for advisors, faculty, and administrators at the institutions the management of articulation agreements, transfer course equivalency, data analytics, and reporting for the continuous success of transfer students in Maryland.

The USM urges a favorable report Senate Bill 540 with amendments.

11-207.

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

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

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

(3) THE TRANSFER PLATFORM SHALL:

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

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

(III) INCLUDE A TRANSCRIPT OPTION FOR STUDENTS THAT:

1. ALLOWS FOR STUDENTS TO ESTABLISH 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 THAT STUDENTS SEEK TO TRANSFER.

~~1. DETERMINES THE STATUS OF COURSES.~~

6.2. COMPARES COURSES WITH RECOMMENDED TRANSFER PROGRAMS; AND

3. COMPUTES GRADE POINT AVERAGES.

7. ALLOWS ACCESS THROUGH MOBILE DEVICES.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of 12 institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards 8 out of every 10 bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of 21 members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.