

# HOUSE BILL 1020

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CF SB 864

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By: **Delegates Wolek, Solomon, Acevero, Charkoudian, Crutchfield, Cullison, Foley, Fraser-Hidalgo, Kaiser, Kaufman, Korman, Lopez, Love, Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Qi, Queen, Shetty, Spiegel, Stewart, Vogel, Wilkins, Wims, Wu, and Ziegler**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2024

Assigned to: Appropriations

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## 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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 programs and identifies four strategic imperatives that include accountability for ensuring  
2 students secure meaningful employment, building career pathways, sharpening its focus  
3 on career readiness, and building a financial model that supports growth, innovation, and  
4 collaboration; and

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

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

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

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

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 12–119.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2024.