

Chapter 622

(House Bill 1347)

AN ACT concerning

Southern Maryland Higher Education Council

FOR the purpose of establishing a Southern Maryland Higher Education Council; providing for the composition of the Council; requiring the Governor to appoint a chair from among the Council members; ~~requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to provide staff for the Council~~; prohibiting a member from receiving compensation but entitling a member to reimbursement for certain expenses; providing for the duties of the Council; requiring the Council to submit an interim and a final report on its findings and recommendations on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of the Council; and generally relating to the Southern Maryland Higher Education Council.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

- (a) There is a Southern Maryland Higher Education Council.
- (b) The Council consists of the following 12 members:
 - (1) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee;
 - (2) the Chancellor of the University System of Maryland, or the Chancellor's designee;
 - (3) the President of St. Mary's College of Maryland, or the President's designee;
 - (4) the President of the College of Southern Maryland, or the President's designee;
 - (5) the President of the Maryland Independent College and University Association, or the President's designee;
 - (6) the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, or the Chair's designee;
 - (7) the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, or the Assistant Secretary's designee;

(8) the Chair of the Governor's Southern Maryland Workforce Investment Board, or the Chair's designee;

(9) the President of the Board of Directors of the Patuxent Partnership, or the President's designee;

(10) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County, or the President's designee;

(11) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of Charles County, or the President's designee; and

(12) the President of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Mary's County, or the President's designee.

(c) (1) The Governor shall appoint a chair from among the members of the Council.

(2) The members may elect other officers and establish committees, including advisory committees, as needed.

~~(d) The Maryland Higher Education Commission shall provide staff for the Council.~~

~~(e)~~ (d) A member of the Council:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Council; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

~~(e)~~ (e) (1) The Council shall develop a strategy for improving access to higher education for the residents of Southern Maryland.

(2) In developing a strategy for improving access to higher education for the residents of Southern Maryland, the Council shall:

(i) examine the need for higher education in Southern Maryland;

(ii) examine whether or not the current higher education institutions and centers in Southern Maryland, including the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center, are meeting the higher education needs of the region;

(iii) if a determination is made that additional higher education needs exist in Southern Maryland, recommend the best way to meet the additional educational needs; and

(iv) develop plans that include short-term and long-term strategies for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland.

~~(e)~~ (f) On or before December 1, 2011, the Council shall present an interim report of its findings and recommendations, including a short-term strategy for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

~~(h)~~ (g) On or before December 1, 2012, the Council shall present a final report of its findings and recommendations, including a long-term strategy for improving access to higher education in Southern Maryland, to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2011. It shall remain effective for a period 2 of years and, at the end of June 30, 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2011.