

# SENATE BILL 843

F2

(2lr1285)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Appropriations* —

Introduced by **Senators Pinsky, Ferguson, Madaleno, ~~and Montgomery~~  
Montgomery, and Rosapepe**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Institutions of Postsecondary Education – Fully Online Distance Education**  
3 **Programs – Registration**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain institutions of postsecondary education that  
5 enroll certain students in certain online distance education programs to register  
6 with the Maryland Higher Education Commission before commencing or  
7 continuing to operate, do business, or function in the State within a certain  
8 period of time under certain circumstances; prohibiting certain institutions from  
9 commencing or continuing to operate, doing business, or functioning in the  
10 State; requiring the Commission to give certain institutions certain notice under  
11 certain circumstances within a certain period of time; authorizing certain  
12 institutions to request a certain hearing under certain circumstances; requiring  
13 the Commission to render a certain decision within a certain period of time;  
14 providing certain institutions a certain right to judicial review; providing for a

---

#### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 certain exception from the requirement for registration; requiring certain  
 2 institutions to be accredited, submit certain information to the Commission,  
 3 notify the Commission of certain changes, comply with certain principles of good  
 4 practice, make public and publish certain information on the institution's Web  
 5 site, comply with a certain refund policy and procedures, and be subject to  
 6 certain complaint investigation; requiring the Commission to establish certain  
 7 refund policies and procedures; requiring the payment of certain fees to be used  
 8 for certain purposes; requiring the Commission to make public and post on its  
 9 Web site the names of certain institutions under certain circumstances;  
 10 requiring the Commission to submit certain reports to the Governor and the  
 11 General Assembly; authorizing the Commission to require certain institutions  
 12 to furnish certain bonds or other financial guarantees under certain  
 13 circumstances; authorizing the Commission to create a certain guaranty fund;  
 14 providing for the use of a certain fund; authorizing certain students to make  
 15 certain claims against a certain fund under certain circumstances; requiring  
 16 certain institutions to pay a certain fee into a certain fund subject to a certain  
 17 ~~exceptions~~ exception; prohibiting the Commission from issuing a certain  
 18 registration and requiring the Commission to revoke a certain registration  
 19 under certain circumstances; authorizing the Commission to impose a certain  
 20 penalty on certain institutions under certain circumstances; requiring the  
 21 Commission to deposit certain monetary penalties into a certain fund;  
 22 subjecting certain institutions to revocation of registration under certain  
 23 circumstances; prohibiting certain institutions from enrolling certain students  
 24 under certain circumstances; authorizing certain students to complete certain  
 25 online distance education programs under certain circumstances; ~~providing that~~  
 26 ~~certain persons are guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to certain fines and~~  
 27 ~~imprisonment for a certain period of time under certain circumstances~~  
 28 providing that an institution shall be subject to a certain fine if it fails to register  
 29 with the Commission under certain circumstances; requiring certain institutions  
 30 to submit certain data to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System; providing for  
 31 the construction of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to  
 32 institutions of postsecondary education that offer fully online distance education  
 33 programs in the State.

34 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 35 Article – Education  
 36 Section 11–202, 11–203, 11–204, and 24–707  
 37 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 38 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

39 BY adding to  
 40 Article – Education  
 41 Section 11–202.2  
 42 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 43 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

3 **Article – Education**

4 11–202.

5 (a) (1) Except as provided in § 11–202.1 of this subtitle, an institution of  
6 postsecondary education may not commence or continue to operate, do business, or  
7 function without a certificate of approval from the Commission.

8 (2) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 11–202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN**  
9 **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT ENROLLS MARYLAND**  
10 **STUDENTS IN A FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE STATE**  
11 **MAY NOT COMMENCE OR CONTINUE TO OPERATE, DO BUSINESS, OR FUNCTION**  
12 **WITHOUT REGISTERING WITH THE COMMISSION WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF**  
13 **ENROLLING THE FIRST MARYLAND STUDENT.**

14 (3) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN § 11–202.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE, BUT**  
15 **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AN INSTITUTION THAT IS**  
16 **NOT ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY**  
17 **THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MAY NOT COMMENCE OR**  
18 **CONTINUE TO OPERATE, DO BUSINESS, OR FUNCTION IN THE STATE.**

19 (b) The Commission shall issue a certificate of approval to an institution of  
20 postsecondary education if it finds that:

21 (1) The facilities, conditions of entrance and scholarship, and  
22 educational qualifications and standards are adequate and appropriate for:

23 (i) The purposes of the institution; and

24 (ii) The programs, training, and courses to be offered by the  
25 institution; and

26 (2) The proposed programs to be offered by the institution meet the  
27 educational needs of the State.

28 (c) (1) If the Commission believes that an institution of postsecondary  
29 education that applies for a certificate of approval ~~OR REGISTRATION~~ does not meet  
30 the conditions or standards necessary for the issuance of the certificate ~~OR~~  
31 ~~REGISTRATION~~, the Commission shall give the institution written notice of the  
32 specific deficiencies.

1           (2) **(I)** Within 20 days of receipt of a notice of deficiencies, the  
2 institution may request a hearing before the Commission, ~~and within.~~

3                   **(II)** WITHIN 60 days of receipt of the request the Commission  
4 shall hold a hearing to determine if the certificate of approval ~~OR REGISTRATION~~  
5 should be issued.

6           (3) If, within 6 months from the date on which the application for  
7 certification ~~OR REGISTRATION~~ was submitted to the Commission, the institution has  
8 ~~NOT~~ received ~~[neither]~~ a certificate of approval under subsection (b) of this section ~~OR~~  
9 ~~A REGISTRATION UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE [nor] AND HAS NOT~~  
10 ~~RECEIVED NOR~~ written notice of deficiencies under this subsection, the institution  
11 may request within 20 days a hearing before the Commission to determine if the  
12 certificate of approval ~~OR REGISTRATION~~ should be issued.

13           **(C-1) (1) IF THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT AN INSTITUTION OF**  
14 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER §**  
15 **11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT MEET THE CONDITIONS OR STANDARDS**  
16 **NECESSARY FOR THE ISSUANCE OF THE REGISTRATION, THE COMMISSION**  
17 **SHALL GIVE THE INSTITUTION WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE SPECIFIC**  
18 **DEFICIENCIES WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR**  
19 **REGISTRATION.**

20                   **(2) (I) WITHIN 20 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF A NOTICE OF**  
21 **DEFICIENCIES, THE INSTITUTION MAY REQUEST A HEARING BEFORE THE**  
22 **COMMISSION.**

23                           **(II) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR**  
24 **A HEARING UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSION**  
25 **SHALL HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE IF THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE**  
26 **ISSUED.**

27                   **(3) (I) IF, AFTER 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE ON WHICH THE**  
28 **APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION, THE**  
29 **INSTITUTION HAS RECEIVED NEITHER A REGISTRATION NOR WRITTEN NOTICE**  
30 **OF DEFICIENCIES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE INSTITUTION MAY REQUEST A**  
31 **HEARING WITHIN 20 DAYS BEFORE THE COMMISSION.**

32                           **(II) WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST FOR**  
33 **A HEARING UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSION**  
34 **SHALL HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE IF THE REGISTRATION SHOULD BE**  
35 **ISSUED.**

1           **(4) AFTER A HEARING HELD UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
2 **COMMISSION SHALL RENDER A DECISION WITHIN 30 DAYS.**

3           (d) (1) Any institution of postsecondary education that is denied a  
4 certificate of approval ~~OR REGISTRATION~~ by the Commission after a hearing granted  
5 under subsection (c) of this section **OR THAT IS DENIED A REGISTRATION AFTER A**  
6 **HEARING GRANTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C-1) OF THIS SECTION** has the right to  
7 judicial review provided by Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the State Government Article.

8           (2) The decision of the Commission shall be presumed correct, and the  
9 institution has the burden of proving otherwise.

10           (3) The Commission shall be a party to the proceeding.

11 **11-202.2.**

12           (A) (1) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE  
13 MEANINGS INDICATED.

14           (2) “DISTANCE EDUCATION” MEANS COURSE WORK TAUGHT BY  
15 AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THROUGH ELECTRONIC  
16 DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTION TO A SITE OTHER THAN THE PRINCIPAL  
17 LOCATION OF THE INSTITUTION AND ADVERTISED OR DESCRIBED AS LEADING  
18 TO THE FORMAL AWARD OF A CERTIFICATE OR DEGREE.

19           (3) “FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE  
20 STATE” MEANS A PROGRAM IN WHICH:

21           (I) 100% OF THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED THROUGH  
22 ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTION TO ONE OR MORE SITES OTHER  
23 THAN THE PRINCIPAL LOCATION OF AN INSTITUTION; OR

24           (II) 51% OR MORE OF THE PROGRAM IS OFFERED THROUGH  
25 ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION OF INSTRUCTION TO ONE OR MORE SITES OTHER  
26 THAN THE PRINCIPAL LOCATION OF AN INSTITUTION AND ~~NO PORTION OF THE~~  
27 ~~PROGRAM IS OFFERED AT A LOCATION IN THE STATE~~ **THE COMMISSION HAS**  
28 **DETERMINED THAT THE PORTION OF THE PROGRAM OFFERED AT A LOCATION**  
29 **IN THE STATE, IF ANY, DOES NOT REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR**  
30 **THE INSTITUTION TO OPERATE, DO BUSINESS, OR FUNCTION IN THE STATE.**

31           (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ~~PARAGRAPH (2)~~ **PARAGRAPHS (2)**  
32 **AND (3)** OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY  
33 EDUCATION THAT ENROLLS MARYLAND STUDENTS IN A FULLY ONLINE

1 DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE STATE SHALL FILE AN APPLICATION  
2 TO REGISTER WITH THE COMMISSION WITHIN ~~6~~ 3 MONTHS OF ENROLLMENT.

3 (2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO AN INSTITUTION OF  
4 POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT ENROLLS MARYLAND STUDENTS IN A  
5 FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE STATE THAT HAS BEEN  
6 APPROVED OR RECEIVED A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION BY THE  
7 COMMISSION UNDER § 11-206 OR § 11-206.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

8 (3) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF §  
9 11-202(C-1) OF THIS SUBTITLE, AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS ENROLLED  
10 MARYLAND STUDENTS BEFORE OBTAINING REGISTRATION UNDER THIS  
11 SECTION MAY CONTINUE TO OPERATE WITHOUT A REGISTRATION WHILE THE  
12 COMMISSION CONSIDERS THE INSTITUTION'S APPLICATION, CONDUCTS A  
13 HEARING CONCERNING THE INSTITUTION'S APPLICATION, OR PARTICIPATES IN  
14 JUDICIAL REVIEW REGARDING AN INSTITUTION'S APPLICATION.

15 (II) AN INSTITUTION THAT CONTINUES TO OPERATE  
16 WITHOUT A REGISTRATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH  
17 SHALL FURNISH A PERFORMANCE BOND OR OTHER FORM OF FINANCIAL  
18 GUARANTEE TO THE STATE IN AN AMOUNT SET BY REGULATION THAT IS IN  
19 ADDITION TO AND SEPARATE FROM A PERFORMANCE BOND OR OTHER FORM OF  
20 FINANCIAL GUARANTEE REQUIRED UNDER § 11-203 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (C) EACH INSTITUTION REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER SUBSECTION  
22 (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL:

23 (1) BE ACCREDITED BY AN ACCREDITING BODY RECOGNIZED AND  
24 APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION;

25 (2) SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION:

26 (I) EVERY 2 YEARS, A FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEWED  
27 BY AN INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT RETAINED BY THE INSTITUTION;

28 (II) AN AFFIDAVIT FROM THE PRESIDENT OR CHIEF  
29 EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE INSTITUTION AFFIRMING:

30 1. THAT THE INSTITUTION HAS NOT FILED FOR  
31 BANKRUPTCY PROTECTION UNDER TITLE 11 OF THE UNITED STATES CODE  
32 DURING ITS EXISTENCE; AND

33 2. THE WILLINGNESS OF THE PRESIDENT OR THE  
34 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION;

1 (III) PROOF OF GOOD BUSINESS STANDING IN THE STATE IN  
2 WHICH THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTION IS  
3 INCORPORATED; AND

4 (IV) PROOF OF GOOD ACADEMIC STANDING SUBMITTED BY:

5 1. THE REGULATORY HIGHER EDUCATION ENTITY IN  
6 THE STATE IN WHICH THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE INSTITUTION IS  
7 LOCATED; OR

8 2. IF THE STATE IN WHICH THE INSTITUTION IS  
9 LOCATED DOES NOT HAVE A REGULATORY HIGHER EDUCATION ENTITY, THE  
10 ACCREDITING BODY THAT ACCREDITED THE INSTITUTION;

11 (3) PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE COMMISSION OF A CHANGE IN  
12 OWNERSHIP OR A CHANGE IN MAJORITY CONTROL;

13 (4) COMPLY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE FOR  
14 DISTANCE EDUCATION ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION THROUGH  
15 REGULATION;

16 (5) MAKE PUBLIC AND POST ON THE INSTITUTION'S WEB SITE:

17 (I) WHETHER THE INSTITUTION IS REGISTERED IN  
18 MARYLAND; AND

19 (II) THE PROCESS BY WHICH TO MAKE COMPLAINTS  
20 AGAINST THE INSTITUTION;

21 (6) COMPLY WITH THE REFUND POLICY AND PROCEDURES  
22 ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

23 (7) BE SUBJECT TO COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION BY THE OFFICE  
24 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE COMMISSION OR BOTH.

25 (D) THE REFUND POLICY AND PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE  
26 COMMISSION SHALL ALLOW FOR:

27 (1) (I) AT LEAST 2 WEEKS OF REQUIRED ORIENTATION OR  
28 PREENROLLMENT INSTRUCTION IN A FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION  
29 PROGRAM IN THE STATE AT NO CHARGE FOR A STUDENT WHO HAS COMPLETED  
30 LESS THAN 24 CREDITS OF COLLEGE-LEVEL LEARNING FROM AN ACCREDITED  
31 INSTITUTION; AND

1                   **(II) A PRORATED REFUND METHODOLOGY THAT PROVIDES**  
2 **A REFUND TO ANY STUDENT NOT COVERED BY ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH**  
3 **WHO HAS COMPLETED 60% OR LESS OF A COURSE, TERM, OR PROGRAM WITHIN**  
4 **THE APPLICABLE BILLING PERIOD; OR**

5                   **(2) A PRORATED REFUND METHODOLOGY THAT ~~ACCOUNTS FOR~~**  
6 **~~THE PORTION OF THE COURSE NOT COMPLETED~~ PROVIDES A REFUND TO ANY**  
7 **STUDENT WHO HAS COMPLETED 60% OR LESS OF A COURSE, TERM, OR**  
8 **PROGRAM WITHIN THE APPLICABLE BILLING PERIOD.**

9                   **(E) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
10 **COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE THE PAYMENT OF A FEE SET BY REGULATION, AS**  
11 **A CONDITION OF REGISTRATION.**

12                   **(2) THE FEES CHARGED SHALL BE:**

13                   **(I) A FIXED AMOUNT FOR ALL INSTITUTIONS REGARDLESS**  
14 **OF TYPE, LOCATION, OR STUDENT ENROLLMENT; AND**

15                   **(II) ~~SET~~ SET TO COVER THE APPROXIMATE COST OF**  
16 **IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION.**

17                   **(F) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAKE PUBLIC AND POST ON ITS WEB SITE:**

18                   **(1) A LIST OF REGISTERED INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY**  
19 **EDUCATION THAT OFFER FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN**  
20 **THE STATE; AND**

21                   **(2) IF THE COMMISSION DENIES OR REVOKES THE REGISTRATION**  
22 **OF AN INSTITUTION, THE NAME OF THE DENIED OR REVOKED INSTITUTION.**

23                   **(G) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL**  
24 **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE**  
25 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

26                   **(1) THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY**  
27 **EDUCATION THAT APPLY FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION;**

28                   **(2) THE TYPE AND SIZE OF THE INSTITUTIONS THAT APPLY;**

29                   **(3) THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS APPROVED FOR**  
30 **REGISTRATION;**



1           **(4) THE NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS DENIED REGISTRATION; AND**

2           **(5) THE NUMBER OF MARYLAND STUDENTS ENROLLED IN**  
 3 **INSTITUTIONS REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER THIS SECTION.**

4 11–203.

5           (a) The Commission may require any institution of postsecondary education  
 6 that is required to obtain a certificate of approval **OR REQUIRED TO REGISTER**  
 7 **UNDER § 11–202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE** to furnish a performance bond or other form  
 8 of financial guarantee ***FOR EITHER THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL OR THE***  
 9 ***REGISTRATION*** to the State conditioned that the institution will:

10           (1) Perform faithfully all agreements or contracts it makes with its  
 11 students; and

12           (2) Comply with this article.

13           (b) Subject to subsection (d)(3)(ii)2 of this section, any bond or guarantee  
 14 required under this section shall be in the form and amount the Secretary requires.

15           (c) (1) The total liability of a surety on a bond or guarantee under this  
 16 section may not exceed the amount of the bond or guarantee.

17           (2) If the total amount of claims filed against a bond or guarantee  
 18 exceeds the amount of the bond or guarantee, the surety shall pay the amount of the  
 19 bond or guarantee to the Secretary for distribution to the claimants.

20           (d) (1) By rule and regulation, the Commission may create and provide for  
 21 the operation of [two] **THREE** separate guaranty funds for:

22           (i) For-profit institutions of higher education; [and]

23           (ii) Private career schools; **AND**

24           **(III) INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT**  
 25 **ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 11–202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

26           (2) (i) The private career school fund shall be used:

27                           1. To reimburse any student at a private career school  
 28 who is entitled to a refund of tuition and fees because the institution has failed to  
 29 perform faithfully any agreement or contract with the student or failed to comply with  
 30 any provision of this article; or

1                   2.     For any other function directly related to the original  
2 purpose of the fund deemed appropriate by the Secretary.

3                   (ii)    The for-profit institution of higher education fund shall be  
4 used to reimburse any student at a for-profit institution of higher education who is  
5 entitled to a refund of tuition and fees because the institution has failed to perform  
6 faithfully any agreement or contract with the student or failed to comply with any  
7 provision of this article.

8                   **(III) 1.    THE FUND FOR INSTITUTIONS OF**  
9 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER §**  
10 **11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE USED TO REIMBURSE ANY STUDENT AT**  
11 **ANY OF THESE INSTITUTIONS WHO IS ENTITLED TO A REFUND OF TUITION AND**  
12 **FEES BECAUSE THE INSTITUTION HAS FAILED TO PERFORM FAITHFULLY ANY**  
13 **AGREEMENT OR CONTRACT WITH THE STUDENT OR FAILED TO COMPLY WITH**  
14 **ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE.**

15                   ~~2.    THE COMMISSION MAY REDUCE THE~~  
16 ~~CONTRIBUTION OF OR EXEMPT AN INSTITUTION FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO~~  
17 ~~CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME SET BY REGULATION~~  
18 ~~DURING WHICH NO CLAIM AGAINST THE FUND HAS BEEN SUSTAINED ON BEHALF~~  
19 ~~OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN A FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION~~  
20 ~~PROGRAM OFFERED IN THE STATE BY THE INSTITUTION.~~

21                   **2.    A.    AFTER 3 YEARS OF CLAIMS HISTORY**  
22 **DURING WHICH NO CLAIM AGAINST THE FUND HAS BEEN SUSTAINED ON BEHALF**  
23 **OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN A FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
24 **PROGRAM OFFERED IN THE STATE BY AN INSTITUTION REGISTERED UNDER §**  
25 **11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL EXEMPT THAT**  
26 **INSTITUTION FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND.**

27                   **B.    NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSUBSUBPARAGRAPH A**  
28 **OF THIS SUBSUBPARAGRAPH, AN INSTITUTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO**  
29 **CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND FOLLOWING A CLAIM AGAINST THE FUND BEING**  
30 **SUSTAINED ON BEHALF OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN A FULLY ONLINE**  
31 **DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM OFFERED IN THE STATE BY THE INSTITUTION.**

32                   **3.    NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2 OF**  
33 **THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, A STUDENT WHO TAKES COURSES FROM AN INSTITUTION**  
34 **EXEMPTED FROM CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUND UNDER SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 2**  
35 **OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH MAY MAKE A CLAIM AGAINST THE FUND IN**  
36 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.**

1                    [(iii)] (IV) 1. The funds shall be continuing, nonlapsing  
2 funds, not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

3                    2. Any unspent portions of the funds may not be  
4 transferred or revert to the General Fund of the State, but shall remain in the funds to  
5 be used for the purposes specified in this subsection.

6                    3. No other State money may be used to support the  
7 funds.

8                    [(iv)] (V) The Commission shall be subrogated to and may  
9 enforce the claim of any student to the extent of any actual or authorized  
10 reimbursement from the funds.

11                    (3) (i) Each for–profit institution of higher education or private  
12 career school that is required to obtain a certificate of approval **AND, SUBJECT TO**  
13 **PARAGRAPH (2)(III)2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, EACH INSTITUTION OF**  
14 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 11–202.2 OF**  
15 **THIS SUBTITLE** shall pay an annual fee into the appropriate fund.

16                    (ii) 1. Subject to subsubparagraph 2 of this subparagraph,  
17 the Commission shall determine the amount of the fee based on the probable amount  
18 of money needed for the funds for each fiscal year. If the moneys in the guaranty funds  
19 are insufficient to satisfy duly authorized claims, the participating institutions may be  
20 reassessed and shall pay the additional amounts required.

21                    2. The amount of the annual fee charged to a for–profit  
22 institution of higher education may not exceed 0.0025 of all gross tuition, or \$30,000,  
23 whichever is less.

24                    (iii) The Commission may not issue a certificate of approval **OR**  
25 **REGISTRATION** to, and shall revoke any certificate of approval **OR REGISTRATION**  
26 previously issued to, an institution that fails to pay any annual fee or reassessment.

27                    (iv) The Commission shall deposit into the appropriate fund any  
28 penalty assessed against a for–profit institution of higher education, **INSTITUTION OF**  
29 **POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 11–202.2 OF**  
30 **THIS SUBTITLE**, or private career school, respectively, under the terms of § 11–204 of  
31 this subtitle.

32                    (4) (i) The funds shall be maintained by the State Comptroller who  
33 may deposit the assets of the funds in any manner that is consistent with the purposes  
34 of the funds.

35                    (ii) All interest or other return on fund investments shall be  
36 credited to the funds.

1 (5) The Commission, through the Attorney General, may enforce any  
2 claim to which the Commission has been subrogated under this subsection.

3 **(E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL**  
4 **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE**  
5 **STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REGARDING:**

6 **(1) THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS MADE AGAINST EACH GUARANTY**  
7 **FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION;**

8 **(2) THE TYPE, SIZE, AND PROGRAM OF THE INSTITUTIONS**  
9 **AGAINST WHICH THE CLAIMS ARE MADE;**

10 **(3) THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS THAT ARE APPROVED AND THE**  
11 **ASSOCIATED PAYOUTS FROM THE FUNDS; AND**

12 **(4) THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS THAT ARE DENIED.**

13 11-204.

14 (a) If the Commission believes that an institution of postsecondary education  
15 does not meet the conditions or standards on which its certificate of approval,  
16 **REGISTRATION**, or any other approval issued by the Commission or Secretary, was  
17 based, the Commission shall give the institution written notice specifying the  
18 deficiencies believed to exist.

19 (b) (1) The notice shall specify the alleged deficiencies, and direct the  
20 institution to correct them within a period of not less than 30 days.

21 (2) If the institution requests a hearing, the Commission shall hold a  
22 hearing on the matter within 60 days of receipt of the request, subject to the  
23 requirement that any request for a hearing must be received by the Commission  
24 within 20 days of the institution's receipt of the notice of deficiencies.

25 (3) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, action on the notice of  
26 deficiencies shall be stayed until a determination is made after the hearing.

27 (4) Notwithstanding § 11-206(b)(3) of this subtitle, at the discretion of  
28 the Secretary, action on any approval request by an institution issued a notice of  
29 deficiencies may be stayed until a determination is made after the hearing.

30 (c) (1) If a hearing is not requested within the specified time period, or if  
31 the notice of deficiencies is upheld in whole or in part after a hearing, the Commission  
32 may reprimand the institution or suspend or revoke the institution's certificate of  
33 approval or any other approval issued by the Commission or Secretary.

1           (2) (i) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding a for-profit  
2 institution of higher education, **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION**  
3 **REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, or private career  
4 school, or suspending or revoking any approval issued to a for-profit institution of  
5 higher education or private career school **OR REGISTRATION ISSUED TO AN**  
6 **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS**  
7 **SUBTITLE**, the Commission may impose a penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation as  
8 specified in regulations adopted by the Commission.

9           (ii) In accordance with the provisions of this section, the  
10 Commission shall deposit any penalty assessed against a for-profit institution of  
11 higher education, **INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION REQUIRED TO**  
12 **REGISTER UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE**, or private career school into the  
13 **RESPECTIVE** guaranty fund [for for-profit institutions of higher education or for  
14 private career schools] if such funds exist. Otherwise, all penalties shall be deposited  
15 into the General Fund of the State.

16           **(D) (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER SANCTION IMPOSED UNDER THIS**  
17 **SECTION, AN INSTITUTION OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT IS REQUIRED**  
18 **TO REGISTER UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT WILLFULLY AND**  
19 **KNOWINGLY VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE:**

20                   **(I) SUBJECT TO REVOCATION OF REGISTRATION; AND**

21                   **(II) PROHIBITED FROM ENROLLING MARYLAND STUDENTS**  
22 **IN FULLY ONLINE DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN THE STATE.**

23           **(2) MARYLAND STUDENTS WHO ATTEND AN INSTITUTION**  
24 **PROHIBITED FROM ENROLLING MARYLAND STUDENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
25 **(1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO COMPLETE A FULLY ONLINE**  
26 **DISTANCE EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE STATE THAT IS IN PROGRESS.**

27           **(3) IF AN INSTITUTION IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER UNDER §**  
28 **11-202.2 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE INSTITUTION DOES NOT REGISTER WITH**  
29 **THE COMMISSION WITHIN 6 MONTHS OF ENROLLING ITS FIRST MARYLAND**  
30 **STUDENT OR THE INSTITUTION ENROLLS ADDITIONAL MARYLAND STUDENTS IN**  
31 **VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION, ~~THE PERSON WHO SUBMITS THE AFFIDAVIT~~**  
32 **~~REQUIRED UNDER § 11-202.2(C)(2)(II) OF THIS SUBTITLE IS GUILTY OF A~~**  
33 **~~MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING~~**  
34 **~~\$10,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH~~ THE INSTITUTION**  
35 **SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$20,000.**

1           **[(d)] (E)**     In imposing any sanctions under this section, the Commission  
2 shall consider:

- 3                   (1)     The seriousness of the deficiency;
- 4                   (2)     The harm caused by the deficiency;
- 5                   (3)     The good faith of the institution and any corrective actions taken;
- 6                   (4)     Any history of previous deficiencies; and
- 7                   (5)     Other pertinent circumstances.

8           **[(e)] (F)**     (1)     An institution that is aggrieved by an order of the  
9 Commission has the right to judicial review provided by Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the  
10 State Government Article.

11                   (2)     The decision of the Commission shall be presumed correct and the  
12 institution has the burden of proving otherwise.

13                   (3)     The Commission shall be a party to the proceeding.

14           **[(f)] (G)**     (1)     The Secretary may at any time following written notice of  
15 the deficiencies and prior to the Commission's final decision seek an injunction or  
16 other judicial remedy in accordance with § 11–107 of this title, if the Secretary  
17 determines that the public interest requires enforcement of the provisions of this  
18 article or any applicable regulations.

19                   (2)     If a court grants relief prior to a hearing that was requested on a  
20 timely basis, the Commission shall schedule a hearing in regard to the notice of  
21 deficiencies within 2 weeks of the issuance of the court's order, unless the institution  
22 requests a delay.

23     24–707.

24           (a)     Local education agencies, community colleges, public senior higher  
25 education institutions, and State agencies shall:

26                   (1)     Make every effort to comply with the data requirements and  
27 implementation schedule for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System as set forth by  
28 the Governing Board; and

29                   (2)     Transfer **[student]** **STUDENT–LEVEL AND TRANSCRIPT–LEVEL**  
30 data and workforce data to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance  
31 with the data security and safeguarding plan developed under § 24–704(g)(6) of this  
32 subtitle.

1 (b) Private secondary schools may transfer student data and workforce data  
 2 to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance with the data security and  
 3 safeguarding plan developed under § 24-704(g)(6) of this subtitle.

4 (c) For-profit and private nonprofit institutions of higher education, AND  
 5 INSTITUTIONS OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION THAT ARE REQUIRED TO  
 6 REGISTER UNDER § 11-202.2 OF THIS ARTICLE shall transfer student-level ~~AND~~  
 7 ~~TRANSCRIPT-LEVEL~~ enrollment data, degree data, and financial aid data for all  
 8 Maryland residents to the Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance with the  
 9 data security and safeguarding plan developed under § 24-704(g)(6) of this subtitle.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That nothing in this Act may  
 11 be construed to affect the ongoing interpretation of § 11-202 of the Education Article  
 12 and whether instruction through correspondence, noninteractive learning, credit for  
 13 prior learning, cooperative education activities, practica, internships, externships,  
 14 apprenticeships, portfolio review, departmental examinations, or challenge  
 15 examinations requires a certificate of approval to operate, do business, or function in  
 16 this State.

17 SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
 18 effect July 1, 2012.

Approved:

---

Governor.

---

President of the Senate.

---

Speaker of the House of Delegates.