

## SB 1052

### University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016

SB 1052, "University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016," creates a single name and two campuses. It defines "The University of Maryland" as "a strategic partnership" between "The University of Maryland College Park Campus" and "The University of Maryland Baltimore Campus." The stated intent of the bill is to empower the two institutions, operating as one, to reach the highest levels of national prominence in education, research, and economic impact on the state.

The bill recognizes that (1) research is the "building block of a knowledge-based economy;" (2) federal research funding is "transitioning from single-discipline grants to multi-disciplinary grants;" and (3) the state must invest in research and innovation to catalyze economic vitality.

In terms of governance, each campus would continue to be led by its own president. The two presidents are asked to form a joint steering committee, similar to the existing MPower committee, to promote close alignment of both institutions. When a vacancy occurs in the presidency of either campus, the Board of Regents is authorized—but not required—to determine whether to proceed with one president for both campuses.

Among the bill's other provisions:

- Creates and funds a "Center for Maryland Advanced Ventures" in Baltimore to seek joint and interdisciplinary grant funds and commercialize the research of both campuses.
- Creates and funds a "University of Maryland Center for Economic and Entrepreneurship Development" (UMCEED) in College Park to advance education and research in interdisciplinary fields that are critical to the knowledge-based economy of the future, including neurosciences, virtual reality, data analytics, and cyber-security.
- Funds the construction of a new Biomedical and Engineering Education building in Shady Grove, and directs the two presidents to develop plans for joint programs that will also contribute to the economic development of the region.
- Calls for a joint plan by the two presidents to bring the assets of their respective campuses—the professional schools in Baltimore and the colleges in College Park (Education, Business, Social and Behavioral Sciences, etc.) to support job creation and reduce unemployment in Baltimore.
- Moves USM headquarters from Adelphi to Baltimore City and transfers ownership of the USM building on Metzert Road to the University of Maryland College Park Campus.

The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership institutionalizes the collaboration between the two institutions and sets the stage for both to eventually become more highly placed among U.S. research universities in terms of combined research expenditures and federal research rankings. Almost all of the funding peers of University of Maryland, College Park have a medical school, a law school, or both, which expand interdisciplinary research and educational opportunities.