



TOPIC: The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 – Senate Bill 740

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: June 5, 2013

SUMMARY: The College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013 (Senate 740) was passed and has been signed by Governor O'Malley. The legislation calls for many actions on the part of higher education, and USM and its constituent institutions will have many responsibilities. Highlights of the bill include:

TRANSFER OF CREDITS: The law will now require all institutions to accept at least 60 credits in transfer that a student earns at the community college towards an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree through the development of a statewide transfer agreement. Additionally, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC), in collaboration with institutions, will develop and implement a reverse transfer agreement, so that 30 credits may be transferred back to a community college toward an Associate's Degree.

NEAR COMPLETERS: All USM institutions will participate in the state-wide near completers program, providing incentives for near completers to return to finish degrees.

DEGREE PLANS: Every student registered in a public higher education institution must have a degree plan filed in a timely manner.

PATHWAYS: Each institution must develop a pathway system to establish graduation and progress benchmarks for all students within set time limits.

120 CREDIT BACHELOR'S DEGREES: As already provided for in BOR Policy III-8.02, SB 740 requires that the standard number of credits for the baccalaureate shall be 120 credits.

DUAL ENROLLMENT: High school students dually enrolled in our institutions must have 75% of their tuition bill paid by the school district, and certain criteria must be met.

The remainder of the bill requires reports to the legislature on the implementation of the strategies. USM will work with the institutions to ensure that information for the reports are submitted in a timely manner. The enrolled bill is available at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2013RS/bills/sb/sb0740E.pdf>.

ALTERNATIVE(S): This is an information item only.

FISCAL IMPACT: This is an information item only.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

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