



February 7, 2020

LEGISLATIVE PACE PICKS UP

The opportunity to file a bill with the Chief Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate (known as dropping a bill in the “hopper”) ended this week. The USM has a better sense of the sheer volume of legislation that we’ll be addressing on this, the 31st day of the 90-day legislative session. I have added hyperlinks to some of the bills on the list. Next week is focused on several bills aiming to amend Maryland’s Public Information Act.

STUDENT VOTER REGISTRATION TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IN HOUSE HEARING

Yesterday in the House Ways and Means Committee the USM testified in support of House Bill 245. The bill establishes various requirements relating to voter registration and voting by students at institutions of higher education. The USM has a long track record supporting civic engagement including voter registration efforts. We want to ensure that House Bill 245 supplements, and does not supplant, current data-driven and curricular-based efforts.

In November, the USM Board of Regents hosted a System-wide Civic Education/Civic Engagement (CECE) workshop to bring campus teams together to report on the campus-level progress on the three committees that came out of the Regents’ Workgroup on Civic Education and Civic Engagement in 2018. Those committees reviewed specifically the area of student voting.

The USM is seeking two amendments. The first is to delete “(V) A POLICY ALLOWING STUDENTS TO BE EXCUSED FROM CLASS TO VOTE...” Early and absentee voting is available widely and the System expressed concern about the demand on a calendar that already includes civic education and engagement activities.

As described below in the USM voter study summary report, student voter registration and turnout are best measured over a longer period. The bill requires campus staff to count “clicks” and take “screenshots” of voter information pages annually. The USM believes this to be a burden that yields no new understanding about student voting.

The National Study of Learning Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) presented the most recent [summary report](#) on voter registration and voting statistics for the USM. For example, many institutions named Carnegie Community Engagement Classification (“Carnegie Classification”) as a long-term goal. The application window opens every five years and Towson University has earned

the Community Engagement Classification. The University of Maryland, Baltimore County and Salisbury University applied for the classification in the 2020 cycle and attained that status this week. The next window opens in 2025.

In order to increase student voting, institutions discussed several possible strategies, such as (1) using the university as a polling place, (2) early voting, (3) holding an Election Day festival, and (4) seeking Student Government Association support for student voting. The 2019 NSLVE Report confirmed a strong student voter registration and voting turnout across USM, an increase in the 2018 elections of almost 24% over the voting rate in 2014.

All USM residential campuses maintain and promote a voter information and registration web page with election-related deadlines and links to all states' voter registration and absentee ballot information.

Examples include:

- Led by the Student Government Association and Center for Democracy and Civic Life, UMBC departments and student organizations collaborate on programs that promote voter engagement and civil dialogue. UMBC provides students free shuttle transportation to several counties' early voting centers and free Election Day transportation to the polling station that serves UMBC's residential communities.
- Bowie State University hosts a Voter Information Table: Our History, Our Vote Matters 2020 – Students can stop by and receive information at the "Our History, Our Vote Matters 2020" awareness table highlighting the 150th Anniversary of the 15th Amendment, 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, 55th Anniversary of the and 2020 election dates. The Office of Student Life manages more than 50 student clubs and organizations, as well as facilitates campus-wide voter registration and voter registration volunteer certification training. The office also coordinates the Honda All-Star Challenge program, a college quiz bowl for HBCU students. In fall 2019, the office facilitated nine civic engagement activities with more than 280 students.

Under Bulldog Connect, where students register for classes and apply for graduation there is another link for students to register to vote in Maryland: <https://bowiestate.edu/bulldog-connection/index.php>

- Beginning this spring, the Salisbury University (SU) Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE) will launch its 'SUVotes2020' campaign for the upcoming primary and general elections. Leveraging their social media platforms (@PACE Salisbury) to engage students, they plan to push out weekly updates including voter information and student testimonials. SU also plans to inform students through our 'Fun Fact Friday' of many of the different voter dates outlined in the Maryland State Board of Election's '2020 Presidential Election Calendar.' In addition to social media, PACE will continue utilizing their campus-wide email privileges to convey important dates such as deadlines to register, polling information, and voter lookup.

UPCOMING BILL HEARINGS

HB 42

Public Information Act - Applications for Inspection - Responses and Time Limits

Delegate Guyton

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 502

Public Information Act – Revisions

Delegate Lierman

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 380

Public Information Act - Denial of Part of a Public Record - Investigations by Inspectors General

Delegate R. Lewis

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 717

Public Information Act - Required Denials - Distribution Lists

Delegate Carr

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 372

Public Information Act - Required Denials for Specific Information - Sociological Information

Delegate Carr

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Health and Government Operations

HB 310 (SB 184)

University of Maryland, Baltimore - Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise

Delegate Hill

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 318](#)

University System of Maryland - Textbooks - Availability of Free Digital Materials

Delegate Stewart

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 325](#)

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training - Designated Coordinator - University System of Maryland

Delegate Hettleman upon introduction...now Senator Hettleman.

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 419](#)

Higher Education - Report on Collection Practices for Unpaid Fees and Services Delegate Luedtke

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 506](#) (SB 458)

Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel, Spouses, and Dependents – Alterations

Delegate Valentino-Smith

In the House - Hearing 2/11 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[SB 518](#)

Higher Education – Council on the Fair Treatment of Student Athletes (Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)

Senators Ready, Rosapepe, Serafini, and West

In the Senate - Hearing 2/12 at 1:00 p.m.

HB 526

Higher Education - Differential Tuition - Notification and Income Tax Subtraction Modification

Delegate Miller

In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

[HB 533](#) (SB 518)

Higher Education – Council on the Fair Treatment of Student Athletes (Jordan McNair Safe and Fair Play Act)

Delegate Lierman

In the House - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

SB 553

Universities at Shady Grove Regional Higher Education Center

Senator King

In the Senate - Hearing 2/18 at 1:00 p.m.

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

HB 719

Higher Education - Transfer Students - Courses Counting Toward Chosen Degree

Delegate Hornberger

In the House - Hearing 2/25 at 1:00 p.m.

Appropriations

BUDGET BRIEFING SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 13, 2020

University of Maryland Global Campus

UM Center for Environmental Science

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration

1 p.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Coppin State University

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration

1 p.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Thursday, February 20, 2020

University of Baltimore

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building

Friday, February 21, 2020

University of Baltimore

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; Subcommittee on Education, Business and Administration

11:30 a.m.

West Miller Senate Building, Room 3

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Coppin State University

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

House Appropriations Committee; Education and Economic Development Subcommittee

1 p.m.

Room 150 Lowe House Office Building