

# HOUSE BILL 1642

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By: **Delegates Buckel, Hill, and McComas**

Introduced and read first time: February 25, 2026

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Transformative Economic Efficiency – Framework and**  
3 **Standards**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to establish a  
5 framework for transformative economic efficiency for a certain purpose; requiring  
6 the Commission to develop, post on its website, and periodically update independent  
7 consensus–based standards to encourage transformative economic efficiency; and  
8 generally relating to transformative economic efficiency.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 11–409

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **11–409.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “INDEPENDENT CONSENSUS–BASED STANDARDS” MEANS**  
21 **METHODOLOGIES, SPECIFICATIONS, REGULATORY SOLUTIONS, AND TECHNICAL**  
22 **STANDARDS DEVELOPED COLLABORATIVELY BY INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**  
23 **EDUCATION, RESEARCH ENTITIES, OR STAKEHOLDER GROUPS THROUGH A**  
24 **STRUCTURED PROCESS.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(3) “TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY” MEANS**  
2 **MEASURABLE IMPROVEMENT IN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, RESOURCE**  
3 **UTILIZATION, AND HEALTH RISK PREVENTION ACHIEVED THROUGH EDUCATION**  
4 **AND RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICES.**

5           **(B) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR**  
6 **TRANSFORMATIVE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY.**

7           **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FRAMEWORK IS TO OPTIMIZE**  
8 **INDEPENDENT CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND ENCOURAGE TRANSFORMATIVE**  
9 **ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF**  
10 **INDEPENDENT CONSENSUS-BASED STANDARDS.**

11           **(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP THE INDEPENDENT**  
12 **CONSENSUS-BASED STANDARDS BY:**

13           **(1) RELYING ON INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND REPRODUCIBLE**  
14 **DATA;**

15           **(2) UTILIZING INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION, VALIDATION, AND**  
16 **CALIBRATION METHODOLOGIES; AND**

17           **(3) SEEKING CONSENSUS AMONG STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING:**

18                   **(i) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION;**

19                   **(ii) COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS; AND**

20                   **(iii) RELEVANT SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS.**

21           **(D) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

22           **(1) POST THE INDEPENDENT CONSENSUS-BASED STANDARDS ON ITS**  
23 **WEBSITE; AND**

24           **(2) PERIODICALLY UPDATE THE INDEPENDENT CONSENSUS-BASED**  
25 **STANDARDS.**

26           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
27 1, 2026.