

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 214  
Appropriations

(Delegate Healey)

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Higher Education - Academic Forgiveness Policy - Established

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This bill requires each institution of higher education that receives State funds to develop and implement an academic forgiveness policy by August 1, 2026. The academic forgiveness policy must disregard an applicant’s unsatisfactory or failing grades earned at a prior institution seven or more years before the applicant submits an application, if the applicant chooses to participate in the policy. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Public institutions of higher education can implement an academic forgiveness policy using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Local community colleges can implement an academic forgiveness policy using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:**

*Maryland Policies*

According to University System of Maryland [policy](#), in general, a student who has earned 12 or more semester hours of credit that are applicable for credit at the receiving institution must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, for all attempted college work. Students who have 29 or fewer credits

must also meet the minimum qualifications for entering freshmen, which includes requirements for high school GPA and courses completed. At the discretion of the receiving institution, transfer students with special circumstances may be admitted on the basis of criteria other than prior academic performance. Up to 15% of the institution's entering transfer cohort may comprise such exceptions.

Morgan State University's transfer [policy](#) states that a student must be "in good standing" at the last institution attended. St. Mary's College of Maryland's website does not [list](#) a specific GPA requirement for transfer students.

Community colleges are open enrollment institutions and will generally accept most students with a high school degree or its equivalent for enrollment.

Transfers between institutions of higher education in Maryland are covered by the [Maryland Student Transfer Policy](#), which governs the transfer of credits and other requirements.

**Additional Comments:** Nonprofit higher education institutions that receive State funds can likewise implement an academic forgiveness policy with existing resources.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Department of Legislative Services

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