

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 538
Appropriations

(Delegate Wolek)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

4-Year Institutions of Higher Education - Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Informed Enrollment Act)

This bill requires each four-year institution of higher education in the State that admits first-time undergraduate students to prominently display, by July 1, 2027, a link to the U.S. Department of Education’s (ED) College Scorecard on its publicly accessible prospective student website and to explain and share the information in specified ways with new and prospective students. The bill is contingent on the continued publication of the College Scorecard by ED or another federal agency. Thus, if the Secretary of Higher Education determines that the College Scorecard resource has been discontinued by a federal agency, the Secretary must notify the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) within 10 days, after which the bill is abrogated and of no further force and effect. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Public four-year institutions can comply with the bill’s requirements using existing resources. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) can notify DLS of the discontinuation of the College Scorecard, if necessary, using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: An institution is not required to discard or reprint existing related informational materials or prohibited from continuing to use them. However, any new related informational materials developed on or after July 1, 2027, must be designed, printed, and shared in accordance with the bill's requirements.

Current Law: [The College Scorecard](#), run by ED, presents information about colleges and their students, including salary after completing a degree. The salary information is the median annual earnings of former students one year after graduation. Only students who received federal financial aid are included in the calculation. Data is suppressed for majors with few graduates who received financial aid. The College Scorecard also presents data about the number of graduates in the major and median total debt for students who graduated with each major.

The Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System ([IPEDS](#)) is a system of 12 interrelated surveys conducted annually by ED's National Center for Education Statistics. IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires that institutions that participate in federal student aid programs report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and student financial aid. The data collections occur in fall, winter, and spring. This data is made available to students and parents through the [College Navigator](#) college search website and to researchers and others through the [IPEDS Data Center](#).

State Expenditures: Public four-year institutions can post the required College Scorecard links and share related information using existing resources.

The bill explicitly does not require institutions to discard or reprint existing informational materials, nor does it prohibit their continued use. Beginning July 1, 2027, any newly developed related informational materials must comply with the bill's requirements.

MHEC can notify DLS in the event of the College Scorecard being discontinued using existing resources.

Additional Comments: Private four-year institutions of higher education are also able to comply with the bill's requirements using existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 713 and HB 611 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: SB 430 (Senator Brooks) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center; Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Maryland Independent College and University Association; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 6, 2026
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