HOUSE BILL 6

F2 (6lr1426)

ENROLLED BILL

— Appropriations/Education, Energy, and the Environment —

Introduced by **Delegate Kerr**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

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Proofreader.

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Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____M.

_____

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Public Institutions of Higher Education – Pregnant and Parenting Students – Plan and Reporting

FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Higher Education Commission to collect certain data regarding the parental status of students from each public institution of higher education in the State; requiring public institutions of higher education to collect and report certain demographic data from students; requiring ~~all public institutions of higher education~~ *community colleges* to adopt a certain plan for pregnant and parenting students; altering the definition of "student data" to authorize the Commission to share with the Maryland Longitudinal Data System certain data regarding the parental status of certain students; and generally relating to pregnant and parenting students at public institutions of higher education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.

Section 11–409
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 15–140
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 24–701(l)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

11–409.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS.

~~(A)~~ *(B)* (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL COLLECT STUDENT–LEVEL DATA FROM EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE ON THE PARENTAL STATUS OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN EACH INSTITUTION.

(2) THE COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SHALL DEVELOP QUESTIONS THAT ALLOW EACH STUDENT TO IDENTIFY:

(I) WHETHER THE STUDENT IS A PARENT OR A LEGAL GUARDIAN, ACTING AS A PARENT OR A LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR EXERCISING CARE, CUSTODY, OR CONTROL OVER A CHILD OF ANY AGE;

(II) THE AGE OF THE CHILDREN FOR WHICH THE STUDENT HAS RESPONSIBILITY; AND

(III) THE TYPE OF CAREGIVING RESPONSIBILITIES THE STUDENT PROVIDES, INCLUDING WHETHER THE STUDENT:

1. IS A SINGLE PARENT; OR

2. SHARES PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SOMEONE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD OR A DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD.

~~(B)~~ ***(C)*** **(1) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL PLACE THE QUESTIONS DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(A)~~ *(B)* OF THIS SECTION ON ONE OR MORE FORMS THAT ARE USED BY THE INSTITUTION TO COLLECT DEMOGRAPHIC DATA FROM STUDENTS.**

(2) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL MAKE THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER THIS SECTION AVAILABLE TO THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FORMAT DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER SUBSECTION ~~(C)~~ *(D)* OF THIS SECTION.

~~(C)~~ ***(D)*** **THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:**

(1) ESTABLISHING A COMMON FORMAT AND TIME FRAME FOR THE COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF THE DATA REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

(2) REQUIRING THE COLLECTION OF PARENTAL STATUS DATA TO BE INCLUDED WITH THE COLLECTION OF OTHER DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

~~(D)~~ ***(E)*** **INFORMATION COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A MEDICAL OR HEALTH RECORD FOR PURPOSES OF § 24–701(L) OF THIS ARTICLE.**

~~(E)~~ ***(F)*** **ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027, AND EACH SEPTEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT SUMMARIZES THE DATA COLLECTED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER THIS SECTION.**

15–140.

(a) **[**(1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Pregnant**] IN THIS SECTION, "PREGNANT** and parenting student" means a student enrolled at a public **[**senior higher education**]** institution ~~OF HIGHER EDUCATION~~ ***OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE*** who:

[(i)**] (1)** Is pregnant; **[**or**]**

[(ii)] **(2)** Exercises care, custody, or control over a child ~~[~~***OF ANY AGE; OR***

(3) SHARES PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SOMEONE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD OR A DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD.

(3) (i) "Public senior higher education institution" means:

1. The constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland;

2. Morgan State University; and

3. St. Mary's College of Maryland.

(ii) "Public senior higher education institution" does not include:

1. The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies;

2. The University of Maryland Global Campus; or

3. The University of Baltimore~~] OF ANY AGE; OR~~

~~(3) SHARES PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES WITH SOMEONE IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD OR A DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLD~~.

(b) The General Assembly finds that all students at an institution of higher education in the State, regardless of their gender, shall enjoy freedom from discrimination of any kind, including pregnancy discrimination as described in Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

(c) (1) Each public ~~[~~senior higher education~~]~~ institution ~~OF HIGHER EDUCATION~~ ***AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE*** shall adopt a plan regarding pregnant and parenting students that is consistent with Title IX of the federal Higher Education Act.

(2) The plan required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include:

(i) Referral to on–campus or off–campus services to assist regarding the availability of or eligibility for government assistance programs, including:

1. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children;

2. The Child Care Scholarship Program;

3. The Maryland Medical Assistance Program;

4. The Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program; and

5. Any other programs, scholarships, or subsidies for pregnant and parenting students;

(ii) The provision of information about or referrals to resources regarding adoption services;

(iii) The availability of institutional accommodations for pregnant and parenting students; and

(iv) A referral network of on–campus and off–campus health care service providers.

(d) On or before **[**August**]** **OCTOBER** 1, 2026, each public ~~[~~senior higher education~~]~~ institution ~~OF HIGHER EDUCATION~~ ***AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE*** shall post the plan adopted under subsection (c) of this section on the institution's website.

24–701.

(l) (1) "Student data" means data relating to or impacting student performance.

(2) "Student data" includes:

(i) State and national assessments;

(ii) Course–taking and completion;

(iii) Grade point average;

(iv) Remediation;

(v) Retention;

(vi) Degree, diploma, or credential attainment;

(vii) Enrollment;

(viii) Demographic data;

(ix) Juvenile delinquency records;

(x) Elementary and secondary school disciplinary records;

(xi) Child welfare data;

(xii) License, industry certificate, or vocational certificate;

(xiii) Personally identifiable information; **[**and**]**

(xiv) **PARENTAL STATUS; AND**

(XV) Student disability data by specific disability category.

(3) "Student data" does not include:

(i) Criminal and CINA records; **[**and**]**

(ii) Medical and health records**; AND**

(III) PREGNANCY STATUS.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.