

# HOUSE BILL 884

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HB 941/25 – APP

6lr1405

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By: **Delegates Toles, Acevero, Addison, Alston, Amprey, Barnes, Bartlett, Bofo, Boyce, Coley, Conaway, Crutchfield, Harrison, Hill, Ivey, Lehman, J. Long, McCaskill, Patterson, Pena–Melnik, Phillips, Roberson, Roberts, Ross, Taylor, Wells, Wilkins, Woods, and Young**  
Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026  
Assigned to: Appropriations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **University of Maryland Eastern Shore – Land–Grant Institution – Funding**  
3 **(Land–Grant Equity and Accountability Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring, to address a certain funding disparity, that the Governor  
5 include a certain appropriation to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore in the  
6 annual budget bill each fiscal year until a certain total amount is appropriated; and  
7 generally relating to funding for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 15–141  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **15–141.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “UMES” MEANS THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**  
18 **EASTERN SHORE.**

19 **(B) (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**  
20 **LETTER ISSUED TO THE GOVERNOR JOINTLY FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **EDUCATION AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DATED SEPTEMBER 18,**  
2 **2023:**

3 (I) **THE SECOND MORRILL ACT OF 1890 REQUIRED STATES**  
4 **CHOOSING TO OPEN A SECOND LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION FOR BLACK STUDENTS**  
5 **TO PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BETWEEN 1862 AND 1890**  
6 **LAND-GRANT INSTITUTIONS;**

7 (II) **A FUNDING DISPARITY EXISTED FROM 1987 THROUGH 2020**  
8 **BETWEEN UMES, THE STATE'S 1890 LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION, AND THE**  
9 **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS, THE STATE'S 1862**  
10 **LAND-GRANT INSTITUTION;**

11 (III) **IF UMES RECEIVED THE SAME LEVEL OF STATE FUNDING**  
12 **PER STUDENT AS THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK CAMPUS FROM**  
13 **1987 THROUGH 2020, AN ADDITIONAL \$321,181,312 WOULD HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE**  
14 **FOR UMES; AND**

15 (IV) **THE FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL**  
16 **REMEDY THE FUNDING DISPARITY DESCRIBED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

17 (2) **IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE**  
18 **FUNDING PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION BE APPROPRIATED EACH FISCAL YEAR IN**  
19 **A MANNER THAT REMEDIES THE FUNDING DISPARITY AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.**

20 (C) (1) **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,**  
21 **THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION**  
22 **OF AT LEAST \$5,000,000 TO UMES.**

23 (2) **FOR ANY FISCAL YEAR, THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO UMES**  
24 **UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN**  
25 **THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR.**

26 (3) **FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE:**

27 (I) **APPROPRIATED EACH FISCAL YEAR UNTIL A TOTAL**  
28 **AMOUNT OF \$321,181,312 IS APPROPRIATED TO UMES; AND**

29 (II) **SUPPLEMENTAL TO, AND MAY NOT SUPPLANT, FUNDS**  
30 **APPROPRIATED TO UMES IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

31 (D) **FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE USED FOR:**

1                   **(1) DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACADEMIC**  
2 **PROGRAMS;**

3                   **(2) INVESTMENT IN FACULTY;**

4                   **(3) SCHOLARSHIPS; AND**

5                   **(4) ANY OTHER INSTITUTIONAL NEED IDENTIFIED BY UMES.**

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
7 1, 2026.