

# SENATE BILL 983

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By: **Senator McCray**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2026

Assigned to: Rules

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Academic Program Approval – Objections**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that a proposed new academic program be  
4 a graduate program in order for the Maryland Higher Education Commission or  
5 certain institutions of higher education to file an objection to implementation of the  
6 proposed program; and generally relating to objections to proposed new academic  
7 programs.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 11–206.1(e)(1)  
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 11–206.1.

17 (e) (1) Within 30 days of receipt of a notice of an institution’s intent to submit  
18 a new program to the Commission in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, the  
19 Commission may file, or the institutions of higher education in the State may file with the  
20 Commission, an objection to implementation of a proposed [graduate] program provided  
21 the objection is based on:

22 (i) Inconsistency of the proposed program with the institution’s  
23 approved mission for a public institution of higher education and the mission statement  
24 published in the official catalog of a private nonprofit institution of higher education;

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                           (ii) Not meeting a regional or statewide need consistent with the  
2 State Plan for Higher Education;

3                           (iii) Unreasonable program duplication which would cause harm to  
4 the State or students attending institutions of higher education in the State; or

5                           (iv) Unnecessary program duplication in violation of the State's  
6 equal educational opportunity obligations under State and federal law.

7           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2026.