

offering of certain baccalaureate degree programs under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to the offering of baccalaureate degree programs at community colleges and regional higher education centers.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 10–212(c) and 16–108

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

10–212.

(C) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A REGIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFERING OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM AT THE CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 16–108 OF THIS ARTICLE.

16–108.

(A) (1) A BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OFFERING OF A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM NOT CURRENTLY OFFERED IN THE REGION.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO PUBLIC SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND NONPUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

(B) BEFORE SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHALL:

(1) SEEK INPUT FROM STUDENTS, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, AND OTHER CIVIC, EDUCATIONAL, COMMUNITY, AND BUSINESS GROUPS WHEN ASSESSING THE EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OF THE REGION;

(2) DETERMINE THE REGIONAL OR STATEWIDE NEED FOR GRADUATES OF EACH PROGRAM FOR WHICH A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IS SUBMITTED;

(3) IDENTIFY THE ENROLLMENT PATTERNS, SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDENTS, AND OTHER UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT WOULD REQUIRE A PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED IN A PARTICULAR MANNER; AND

(4) DETERMINE THAT THE DEGREE PROGRAM IS NECESSARY TO MEET THE ACADEMIC AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEEDS OF THE REGION OR STATE.

(C) (1) THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MAY SUBMIT THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO ~~AN~~ OUT-OF-STATE SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION ~~INSTITUTION~~ INSTITUTIONS IF NONE OF THE SENIOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE