

## Preamble

WHEREAS, It is a goal of the General Assembly to preserve the integrity and flexibility of continuing education programs, preserve the overseas program, ensure compliance with Department of Defense contracts for the overseas program, and preserve existing adult and continuing education resources at the University of Maryland University College; and

~~WHEREAS, Additional goals of the General Assembly are that degree programs at University of Maryland College Park campus be available through expanded off campus programs, that the College Park campus and University of Maryland University College avoid establishing parallel adult education delivery systems and that the University System consider the increasing financial needs of adult students who do not receive general fund support; and~~

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents of the University of Maryland System is responsible for the management of the University of Maryland System and has all the powers, rights, and privileges that go with that responsibility, including the power to conduct or maintain any institutions, schools, or departments in the University at the locations the Board determines; and

~~WHEREAS, Subject to the approval of the Governor and General Assembly, the Board may merge, consolidate, or close any constituent institution; and~~

WHEREAS, It is intended that this Act reaffirm the designation of the University of Maryland College Park as the State's flagship institution, with a strong commitment to and responsibility for statewide outreach and the meeting of the needs of all of the citizens of the State for continuing professional and technical education; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Higher Education Commission is required to advise the Governor and General Assembly on statewide higher education policy; and

WHEREAS, The Maryland Higher Education Commission responded to that charge by adopting "Investing in People: The Maryland Plan for Postsecondary Education"; and

~~WHEREAS, The Governor has endorsed this plan; and~~

WHEREAS, The plan states that in order to fulfill its mission as the State's flagship institution, the University of Maryland College Park must have a strong commitment to and responsibility for statewide outreach, and must make its unique programs available to the entire State and particularly to the increasing number of adult part-time students; and

WHEREAS, There are increasing numbers of part-time Maryland students who require accessible and moderate cost higher education in order to meet the demands of a changing economy; and