

Maryland University College eligible for this aid beginning in a certain fiscal year; and providing for a certain exception in calculating the number of certain students enrolled at the requesting the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland System and the Governor to include as a priority for higher education a certain amount of state funding for University of Maryland University College.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article — Education~~

~~Section 17-101 and 17-104(a) 17-104~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(1992 Replacement Volume and 1994 Supplement)~~

Preamble

WHEREAS, Higher education, and the institutions which provide it, are increasingly prominent factors in the quality of life and economic development of states and nations; and

WHEREAS, The international economy, labor market demands for highly skilled and professional work force, and rapid technological change increasingly require education beyond high school for both individuals and economies; and

~~WHEREAS, Independent colleges and universities provide distinctive and diverse education, teach undergraduate and graduate students, conduct vital research, provide myriad services to local communities, create jobs and generate approximately \$4 billion in income for the State's economy, and bring national and international recognition and prestige to Maryland; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Independent institutions are tuition dependent, have relatively small endowments, and dedicate increasing proportions of their own funds to student financial assistance to insure affordability; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Independent institutions of higher education are making the best use of their resources to make higher education accessible to all citizens, including those from low income families and under-represented racial and ethnic groups, to foster teaching excellence and to improve undergraduate curricula; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Nonetheless, independent colleges and universities find it more and more difficult to survive and thrive in the face of such continual external threats as the erosion of federal support, the rising cost of operations, the labor intensity of the educational enterprise, the decline in the number of traditional aged high school graduates, and the decline in the share of private giving to independent colleges and universities; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State's program of direct institutional aid is an essential component of the health and financial vitality of Maryland's independent colleges and universities and a critical factor in maintaining their affordability, access and choice for Maryland's citizens; and~~