

Chapter 763

(Senate Bill 424)

AN ACT concerning

The Textbook Cost Savings Act of 2017

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include a certain amount of general funds in the State budget for a certain fiscal year for the purpose of providing a certain grant to the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation at the University System of Maryland for a certain initiative; authorizing certain funds to be used for certain purposes; requiring certain funds allocated for certain purposes to be for the adoption, adaptation, and creation of certain resources that are equally accessible to and independently usable by individuals with disabilities; stating a certain policy of the State; requiring the Center and the State Department of Education to explore jointly the possibility of providing access to certain types of learning materials and resources to certain students; requiring the Center and the Department to submit certain reports on or before certain dates; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the funding of an initiative that supports and promotes the adoption, adaptation, and creation of openly licensed educational resources in higher education.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 12–114.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Education**12–114.1.**

(A) IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE THAT ALL STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY, LOW-COST LEARNING MATERIALS AND RESOURCES.

(B) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE \$100,000 IN GENERAL FUNDS IN THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A GRANT TO THE WILLIAM E. KIRWAN CENTER FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION AT THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF MARYLAND FOR THE MARYLAND OPEN SOURCE TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE.

(2) THE FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE USED TO:

(I) AWARD GRANTS TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE THE ADOPTION, ADAPTATION, AND CREATION OF OPENLY LICENSED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO REDUCE A STUDENT’S COST OF ATTENDANCE WHILE MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES;

(II) REIMBURSE EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE OPERATION OF THE MARYLAND OPEN SOURCE TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS AND THE EVALUATION OF ITS EFFICACY; AND

(III) REIMBURSE MONEY EXPENDED IN FISCAL YEAR 2018 THAT WOULD HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ITEMS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH IF FUNDS HAD BEEN AVAILABLE.

(C) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, FUNDS ALLOCATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE FOR THE ADOPTION, ADAPTATION, AND CREATION OF OPENLY LICENSED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES THAT ARE EQUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO AND INDEPENDENTLY USABLE BY INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation at the University System of Maryland and the State Department of Education shall explore jointly the possibility of providing all students in primary and secondary education with high–quality, low–cost learning materials and resources such as openly licensed educational resources. On or before December 31, 2017, the Center and the Department shall submit an interim report regarding their progress to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly. On or before December 31, 2018, the Center and the Department shall submit their findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2017. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of June 30, 2022, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 25, 2017.