



MHEC

Creating a state of achievement

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Anwer Hasan
Chairperson

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.
Secretary

October 5, 2017

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller
President
Senate of Maryland
H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker
Maryland House of Delegates
H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *Independent Evaluation of the Effectiveness
of the Operation of the Office of Student
Financial Assistance Study & Report*

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch,

Chapter 690 of the Acts of 2016 required the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to complete the following:

“Section 5 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Maryland Higher Education Commission, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, shall retain a consultant to conduct an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the operation of the Office of Student Financial Assistance in the Maryland Higher Education Commission;

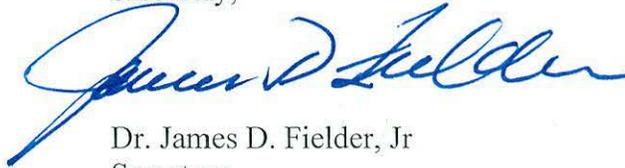
(b) In addition to the evaluation required under subsection (a) of this section, the consultant shall make recommendations on how to implement Section 3 of this Act and how to overcome any impediments the Office of Student Financial Assistance may encounter in implementing Section 3 of this Act; and

(c) On or before October 1, 2017, the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Department of Legislative Services shall report the findings and recommendations required under subsections (a) and (b) of this section to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the House Appropriations Committee.”

As recognized in the Fiscal and Policy Note for House Bill 1014 (Chapter 690), the cost to MHEC to retain an independent consultant to conduct the required study and make recommendations was estimated to be \$250,000. MHEC did not receive the funding required to retain an independent consultant so the study was not conducted.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact Mr. Lee Towers, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-767-3059, or lee.towers@maryland.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James D. Fielder, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. James D. Fielder, Jr
Secretary