



March 22, 2013

LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR MILESTONES AS BILLS MOVE FORWARD (OR NOT)

Monday, March 25, will mark the 76th day of the 90-day legislative session and the Opposite Chamber Bill Crossover Date. This requires that the House and Senate send over to the other chamber those bills it intends to pass favorably. It will also mark a drop in the number of new legislative items reported until the end of session. Let's get the latest on a few of the topics that have been mentioned previously:

Senate Bill 808, which would have capped out-of-state undergraduate enrollment at USM institutions at 20% of total undergraduate population, received an **“unfavorable report”** in Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, **Senate Bill 607** would have required institutions to post information on the cost of higher education using the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet currently under development by the U.S. Department of Education. While the bill received an **“unfavorable report”** in Senate committee, the USM has remained committed to providing the Financial Aid Shopping Sheet to students and families.

Yesterday, the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee issued unanimously a **“favorable with amendment” on Senate Bill 431**. The bill authorizes the Board of Regents to maintain and manage a quasi-endowment fund to provide incentive grants to facilitate institutional fundraising or endowment building. A quasi-endowment differs from a “pure” endowment in that there is only governing board intent requiring the continued investment for a quasi-endowment. Generally, a “pure endowment” is invested in perpetuity, coupled with a legally binding condition of the gift. The proposed quasi-

endowment would be comprised of funds not derived from any state funds and they would be part of the non-state support fund balance of the USM.

House Bill 740 would have exempted all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces, or an honorably discharged veteran who attends the institution within five years of discharge, from paying out-of-state tuition for graduate level education at USM institutions. The bill received an “**unfavorable report**” in the House Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 667 would have established the exclusive authority of the State Labor Relations Board (SLRB) and the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board (SHELRB) to decide all controversies and disputes related to the state’s collective bargaining statutes. The legislation specifically authorized both boards to order respondents to pay complainants who prevail any back pay, foregone wages or earnings, the value of lost benefits, and interest to which they may have been entitled. The bill received an “**unfavorable report**” in Senate Finance. The same was the case for **Senate Bill 724**. The bill would have required the Secretary of Budget and Management, in collaboration with agency heads, to establish a program to make the ratio of State employees to supervisors in all units of the Executive Branch be 14:1 by fiscal year 2016 and 15:1 by fiscal year 2018.

House Bill 225, cross-filed with **Senate Bill 273**, is the Veterans Full Employment Act of 2013, a wide-ranging set of proposals to assist veterans in their pursuit of education, employment and training. One provision requires the USM Board of Regents, in consultation with the Maryland Higher Education Commission, to develop and implement policies governing the awarding of academic credit for military training, coursework, and education. **House Bill 225 passed the House chamber unanimously and Senate Bill 273 is on the Senate floor today.**