

**A018 – 0809**

10 AN ACT CONCERNING

20 **Education – Prohibition and Penalties – Sales of Academic Papers**

30 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum punishments for illegally selling academic papers.

40 By adding to

50 Article – Education

60 Title 26 – Prohibitions and Penalties

70 Subtitle 2

80 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE

90 §26–201 – Sales of Academic Papers

100 (a) In this section, “academic paper” means any theme, essay, term paper, book report, report,  
110 thesis, dissertation, or other written assignment.

120 (b) A person may not sell or offer for sale any assistance in the preparation, research, or  
130 writing of an academic paper if he knows that the buyer intends to submit the academic paper  
140 substantially unchanged to an educational institution as the original work of someone other than  
150 the author, in fulfilling the requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate, or course of study.

160 (c) This section does not prevent:

170 (1) An educational institution, or any of its faculty or staff, from offering courses,  
180 instruction, counseling, or tutoring in research or writing as part of a program authorized  
190 by the institution;

200 (2) Any person from offering tutorial assistance that does not include the preparation,  
210 research, or writing of an academic paper intended for submission to an educational  
220 institution in fulfilling the requirements for a degree, diploma, certificate, or course of  
230 study; or

240 (3) Any person from typing, transcribing, or reproducing a manuscript for a fee.

250 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on  
260 conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding ~~\$1,000~~ \$500,000, imprisonment not exceeding ~~6~~  
270 ~~months~~ 5 years, or both.

280 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect January 1,  
290 2010.

300 **MANDATES:** Martin O’Malley, Governor  
310 Thomas V. “Mike” Miller, President of the Senate  
320 Michael E. Busch, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates

**Sponsor:**

Matt Emery, Speaker of the Assembly, McDaniel College