

May 26, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 967 – *The Textbook Cost Savings Act of 2017*.

This bill requires the Governor to include a certain amount of general funds in the fiscal 2019 State budget to provide a grant to the William E. Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation at the University System of Maryland for the Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative. This bill also requires the center and the Maryland State Department of Education to jointly explore the possibility of providing all students in primary and secondary education with high-quality, low-cost learning materials and resources. In addition, the center and MSDE must submit an interim report by December 31, 2017, as well as findings and recommendations by December 31, 2018.

Senate Bill 424, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 967.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor