

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 254 (Senator Ellis)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

College of Southern Maryland - Vice President of Equity and Inclusion - Funding and Responsibilities

This bill establishes that the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) must have a Vice President of Equity and Inclusion who reports directly to the president of the college, while balancing the interests of CSM and the community. The bill establishes the responsibilities of the vice president, which include overseeing investigations of incidents that may violate policies against harassment and discrimination. Further, the Board of Trustees of CSM must include funding in CSM's annual budget for (1) at least five support staff positions for the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, including a Director of Multicultural Affairs and (2) an Equity and Inclusion Coordinator at each CSM campus. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Local community colleges receive a set amount of funding through the John A. Cade Funding Formula for Community Colleges. The bill does not impact the funding formula.

Local Effect: CSM expenditures likely increase by *at least* \$845,100 annually beginning in FY 2023 to hire the staff required by the bill, as explained below. Revenues are not directly affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: CSM is a public, regional community college serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. It was established in statute by Chapter 695 of 1999 from the existing

Charles County Community College. CSM operates four campuses in the tri-county area: two in Charles County and one each in Calvert and St. Mary's counties. CSM is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, who are appointed for five-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties may appropriate money to pay the cost of operating CSM according to the provisions of State law.

The Board of Trustees of CSM must exercise general control over CSM, keep separate records and minutes, and adopt reasonable rules, regulations, and bylaws to carry out specified provisions of State law. The board may fix the salaries and tenure of the president, faculty, and other employees of the college. The board must appoint a president who must be the chief executive officer of the college.

Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula

The formula used for the distribution of funds to community colleges is known as the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula. The State's annual contribution to the Cade formula is determined by enrollment at community colleges and a percentage, set in statute, of the level of funding received by selected public four-year institutions. Specifically, the formula bases per student funding on a set statutory percentage of current year State appropriations per full-time equivalent student (FTES) at the selected four-year institutions, including noncapital appropriations from the Higher Education Investment Fund. The resulting community college per student amount is multiplied by the number of FTES enrolled in the colleges in the second preceding fiscal year to identify a total formula amount.

Local Fiscal Effect: The bill requires CSM to hire at least five support staff for the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, including a Director of Multicultural Affairs and an Equity and Inclusion Coordinator at each CSM campus. Depending on interpretation of the bill, CSM needs to provide funding for either eight or nine additional staff. Funding is specified for five support staff, including a director, as well as three campus coordinators (one for each of the three CSM campuses). It is unclear whether funding for the vice president role created by the bill is also required.

Based on an estimate provided by St. Mary's County (that assumed only five staff), beginning in fiscal 2023, costs could total \$845,100 or more. This estimate includes salaries and fringe benefits for eight staff (one of which is presumed to be the vice president, the director, three other required staff – although a fourth support staff is likely also required, and three campus coordinators), some related ongoing operating costs, and one-time equipment purchases.

If CSM does not receive adequate funding from the three Southern Maryland counties to support the costs of the bill, CSM will need to offset this impact by cutting costs elsewhere or raising student tuition.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles and St. Mary's counties; Maryland Higher Education Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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