

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
 First Reader

House Bill 334 (Delegate Solomon, *et al.*)  
 Appropriations

Higher Education - MPowering Joint Steering Council - Funding

This bill requires the Governor to include general funds in the annual State budget for the MPowering Joint Steering Council to use exclusively on the University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing (UM-IHC) in the following amounts: \$1.5 million in fiscal 2026; \$3.0 million in fiscal 2027; \$4.5 million in fiscal 2028; and \$6.0 million in fiscal 2029 and each fiscal year thereafter. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures increase by \$1.5 million in FY 2026 and escalate to \$6.0 million beginning in FY 2029. Revenues and higher education funding formulas are assumed to not be affected, as discussed below. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2026.**

(\$ in millions)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	1.5	3.0	4.5	6.0
Net Effect	\$0.0	(\$1.5)	(\$3.0)	(\$4.5)	(\$6.0)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The money appropriated under the bill is supplemental to and may not take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated to the council or the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).

## **Current Law:**

### *MPowering*

In 2011, the General Assembly charged the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents and, thus, University of Maryland, College Park Campus (UMCP) and University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus (UMB) with developing a plan to have an even greater impact on the State, its economy, the job market, and the next generation of innovators. The result, MPowering, was launched in 2012.

The University of Maryland Strategic Partnership Act of 2016 (Chapter 25), codified the council for MPowering as the University of Maryland Joint Steering Council (later renamed the MPowering Joint Steering Council). The council consists of members appointed by the presidents of UMCP and UMB. As established in current law, the council must:

- develop guidelines for faculty appointments that are joint faculty appointments;
- make recommendations to the presidents on joint faculty appointments;
- make recommendations to the presidents identifying competitor state peers for UMCP and UMB;
- establish a process by which undergraduate and graduate programs are evaluated to determine whether the students, the University of Maryland, and the State would benefit from alignment and collaboration and make recommendations to the presidents;
- carry out the programs and policies established under the MPower program as directed by the presidents;
- explore opportunities to create registered apprenticeship programs in nursing and other fields that include integration of high school career and technology education programs and University of Maryland graduate and undergraduate programs; and
- perform any other duties assigned by the presidents.

### *University of Maryland Institute for Health Computing*

UM-IHC is co-led by UMCP and UMB. Funding support comes from Montgomery County, Maryland, and MPower.

**State Expenditures:** This estimate assumes that the funds are added to the budget in a manner that does not increase any funds not intended for the bill's purposes. Adding the funds directly to the UMCP or UMBC budget would increase the average full-time equivalent student funding for selected public four-year institutions, which would result in increases to the higher education funding formulas for community colleges and private

institutions of higher education. Adding the funds directly to the UMB budget or creating a new budget code within USM will not impact the higher education funding formulas.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 376 (Senator King) - Budget and Taxation.

**Information Source(s):** University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 22, 2024  
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