

Senate Bill 136
Avis McMillon
Unfavorable Report
February 9, 2022

I am writing in opposition to Senate Bill 136—College of Southern Maryland—Charles County Campus Transition to Charles County Community College. The College of Southern Maryland is a nationally-recognized regional community college that creates opportunities for all students in the Southern Maryland region.

Dismantling the College of Southern Maryland would decrease access to students, create unnecessary and costly duplication of administrative services and educational programs, and add to the tax burden of all three counties. Simply put, SB 136 is not in the best interest of the students or taxpayers in Southern Maryland.

What is proposed in SB136 is not as straightforward as making CSM's La Plata and Hughesville campuses an independent college. Facilities, employees, and authorization to operate through the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education are all essential components of the College of Southern Maryland (under the jurisdiction of CSM's Board of Trustees) and cannot be transferred to a different college by legislative action.

There are economies of scale in administrative and academic services that come from a regional college that would be lost. The extra costs to taxpayers and counties would be significant, and students wanting programs offered outside the boundaries of their “home” college would have to pay out-of- county tuition, which is substantially higher. None of this is in the best interest of students, taxpayers, or the region.

I ask that the members of the Senate Committee for Education, Health and Environmental Affairs give this bill an unfavorable report.