



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
February 9, 2022

SB 136 - College of Southern Maryland - Charles County Campus - Transition to Charles County Community College

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, oppose this legislation that pulls the support of Charles County from the College of Southern Maryland and creates a new Charles Community College.

We find this legislation would have an inordinate financial burden for the taxpayers of Maryland and particularly on the citizens of Charles County. The College of Southern Maryland was formed as a regional community college to provide cost-efficient higher education services to the residents of the three counties. Since the merger of the three counties, Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, CSM has grown to efficiency and effectively serve its constituency. The College has been nationally recognized for its excellence, particularly in STEM programming and equity work. It has twice been recognized by Aspen Institute for excellence in learning, transfer, workforce alignment, and equity and has been a recipient of millions of dollars in National Science Foundation grants, including the S-STEM which advances work with minority STEM students.

After decades of policy implementation to create a unified community college in southern Maryland, this legislation provides no detailed explanation as to the gains creating a separate community college for Charles County would do that cannot already be accomplished with the existing College of Southern Maryland.

Even worse, there seems to be a lack of understanding of what a new college would entail, such as accreditation, a new administration, and several other duplicative functions that would take years to implement, which would result in students living in Charles County with no other option but to attend the College of Southern Maryland as out-of-county residents. This would be a tremendous blow to equity and access, especially for low-income and minority students.

MACC asks that the Committee give this legislation an unfavorable report.