



Cecil County Chamber of Commerce
Elkton, Maryland
February 28, 2024

House Bill 352 - Budget Reconciliation & Finance Act of 2024

LEGISLATIVE POSITION: Favorable w/Amendment – Restore Cade Formula Funding

Dear Chairman Barnes and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the four hundred and fifty Cecil County Chamber members who represent over fifteen thousand employees, we are writing to recommend revision to **HB352** in regard to the recommended funding levels for Maryland Community Colleges.

Our members understand the importance of having a high quality public education system to address the significant learning challenges that confront citizens in the Twenty-First Century. Cecil College is a major component of our local education system, providing qualified individuals the opportunity to earn associate degrees, preparation for success in four-year higher education programs, job training and other life-long learning needs.

Maryland Community Colleges provide access to all qualified citizens who might not otherwise have the resources or other support systems critical for success post high school and throughout their lives. Cecil College serves as the grand equalizer ensuring that every citizen is afforded the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills each requires.

Currently **HB352** includes funding levels that are 2.5% below the amount derived from the application of the Cade Formula. Cecil College stands to lose \$1,072,058 below what the Cade Formula indicates.

We respectfully ask that Committee members amend HB352 to reinstate the Cade Funding Formula amount considered necessary for Community Colleges to be fully funded. As a result, Cecil College will receive needed additional fiscal support to continue to fulfill its Mission for Cecil County citizens.

Do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further service to you on this critically important proposed legislation. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Members of Cecil County Chamber Government Relations Committee

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