

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 301
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3616 · 301-858-3616
800-492-7122 Ext. 3616
Arthur.Ellis@senate.state.md.us

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair
Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
Counties' Senate Delegation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

District Office
3261 Old Washington Road
Waldorf, Maryland 20602

January 16, 2024

**Testimony of Senator Arthur Ellis in Support of Senate Bill 121: College of Southern Maryland -
Funding and Responsibilities - La Plata Pool**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Senate Bill 121 seeks to resolve a longstanding issue surrounding the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) LaPlata Campus's pool. In early 2021, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, CSM made a decision to close their LaPlata Campus pool. Before its closing, many Charles County residents used this pool to take swim lessons and participate in water aerobics. Local swim teams also used this pool for their practices.

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism operates three shared-use indoor swimming pools with Charles County Public Schools. Though these pools are available year-round, the public can only utilize them after school hours conclude and even less during the high school swim season, as priority is given to their practices and meets.

When the College resumed their in-person operations, County residents inquired about the simultaneous reopening of the pool. Leadership at the College shared that the pool requires repairs and operation costs totaling to over one million dollars. This is unfortunately a cost that the College cannot afford or sustain. SB 121 requires the College of Southern Maryland Board of Trustees to include funding in the College's annual budget for the planning, design, repair, renovation, reconstruction, and site improvement of the College's LaPlata Campus Pool and the reopening of the La Plata Campus pool by December 31, 2024.

I urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 121.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Arthur Ellis".

Arthur Ellis – District 28 ^{AS}