



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 475 - Community Colleges - Students With Disabilities

SPONSOR: Delegates Cain, Guyton, and Mosby

HEARING DATE: February 11, 2020

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 475 Community Colleges - Students With Disabilities**, which requires the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2022, to include at least \$2.5 million annually in the State budget to fund grants for supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities in community colleges. The bill also requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to consult with the Maryland Association of Community Colleges in establishing a competitive review process for awarding the grants and adopting any necessary guidelines or recommendations.

This body enacted a law in 2006 requiring MHEC to establish a grant program to provide supplemental services and supports for students with disabilities. Despite this, the program only received funding from three fiscal years: 2007 through 2009. A funded grant program would allow our community colleges, such as Prince George's Community College, to better serve students with disabilities by providing both human and service resources that enable a more complete, engaging, and successful experience for students.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 475** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.