



## **SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

### **Senate Bill 1022**

### **Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland - Tuition Exemption - Student Members**

**March 11, 2020**

### **Urging a Favorable Report**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1022. This bill authorizes the Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Maryland (USM) to grant a tuition exemption to a student member. The tuition exemption may not exceed the amount of the tuition incurred by the student member during the second year of a two-year term.

The USM Board of Regents, including two student regents, governs the system. Appointed by the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house, the regents oversee the system's academic, administrative, and financial operations; formulate policy; and appoint the USM chancellor and the presidents of the system's 12 institutions. With the exception of the student members, each regent is appointed for a term of five years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Student regents are appointed for a two-year term and may be reappointed. Regents serve on the board without compensation.

Regents are selected through a process that ensures that the most qualified, experienced, and committed candidates, representing a diverse set of backgrounds, are chosen for the position. Regents must share a personal or professional interest in the USM and possess the necessary qualifications needed to strengthen the board; demonstrate a willingness to devote adequate time and effort to the office; and display thoughtfulness and in working with others.

**The intent of Senate Bill 1022 is to acknowledge the sacrifices made by USM students who volunteer for service as a regent.** Tuition relief will help ensure that students who want to serve are not dissuaded by the large commitment that makes working and accepting other opportunities difficult if not impossible. This exemption will provide relief as well as incentive for students interested in this time-consuming but substantive and important role.