

SB1022_USM_Tuition Exemption_Hogan

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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.

Senator Elfreth_FAV_SB1022

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Position: FAV

SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

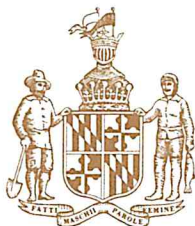
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Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2020

Testimony in Favor of SB1022

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

Chairman Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe, and fellow members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 1022. This bill would grant a tuition exemption to the Student Regent in the second year of their two-year term.

The Student Regent is a full-time member of the Board of Regents and are required to put in a tremendous amount of work in this role - to the point that this becomes a full-time job. Furthermore, the Student Regent has to maintain a full-time courseload through this endeavor which is equally time-consuming. This bill acknowledges the opportunity costs and potential financial sacrifices that these students make to be a part of the governance of their fellow students.

I had the privilege to serve as Student Regent from 2009-2010 - and I am proud to be the only member of the General Assembly to have served in that role (albeit the Vice-Chair was also a member of the Board). From this experience I know first-hand the burdens and challenges that these Student Regents experience, one being that there is simply no time to have another job for a source of income. Last year this body passed large-scale reforms to the Board of Regents, including adding a second Student Regent and extending the term from one to two years. This bill would give a tremendous but tailored benefit to these students in their second year of the role who serve their fellow students and the entire system.

SB 1022 will also not negatively affect the intentions and quality of those that become members of the Board as there is a thorough vetting and selection process to ensure committed, interested, and qualified students serve on the Board. Furthermore, there are several other states that have taken action to provide a similar benefit to their respective Student Regents including: California and North Dakota provide tuition remission and a tuition waiver respectively; Alaska, South Dakota, and Oregon provide some sort of stipend for the Student Regent's service in acknowledgement of the time commitment.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 1022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sarah Elfreth'.

Sarah Elfreth