Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Andrew R. Smarick
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

Bill Number: Senate Bill 526 **Position:** Letter of Information
Title: Legal Education Success Collaborative - Established
Committee: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee
Hearing Date: February 25, 2021

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 526 would create a Legal Education Success Collaborative (the Collaborative) between the University Baltimore School of Law and the four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in Maryland (Bowie State University, Coppin State University, Morgan State University, and University of Maryland Eastern Shore). The Collaborative would be administered by the University of Maryland Law School. The purpose of the Collaborative would be to increase diversity in the legal field.

Information:

Senate Bill 526 would require MHEC to select which HBCU would receive funding for a coordinator position to promote the program to all HBCUs. MHEC would need to develop an objective process for identifying which HBCU should receive the funding. One way would be to select an HBCU based on the number of undergraduates that enroll in a law program (either within Maryland or nationally). Another way would be to identify existing capacity/resources on each campus that support, guide, or explicitly advise undergraduate students towards enrollment in a law school. Regardless of the method, MHEC will need to implement a process that is fair and objective.

For further information, contact Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, at Emily.dow@maryland.gov.