



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 0098– Maryland Higher Education Outreach and College Access Pilot Program - Alterations (Maryland College Access Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Alonzo Washington

HEARING DATE: 03/25/2021

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

Prince George's Community College **SUPPORTS House Bill 0098**, which repeals the termination date of the Maryland Higher Education Outreach and Access Pilot Program, requires the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain appropriation for the program, alters the title of the program, and alters the dates of a report associated with the program. One of the purposes of the program is to increase the number of low-income students attending and succeeding in college. This bill aids in the success and future success of Maryland students.

Prince George's Community College serves students that this bill seeks to assist. HB 0098 encourages low-income Maryland high school students to attend and complete college and to connect such students with nonprofit organizations that will assist the students in achieving their goal of attending college.

Our collective goal is to provide opportunity and access for every Maryland student to pursue their higher education goals. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that these students have the opportunity to take advantage of available resources. Every resource available to assist our students' path to postsecondary education that leads to degree completion or workforce skill enhancement is essential. This proposed legislation benefits both Maryland and our students. This legislation will make a difference.

For the reasons stated above, Prince George's Community College **SUPPORTS House Bill 0098** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.