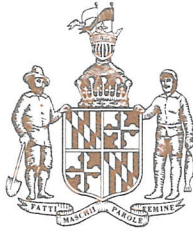


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 377 – Higher Education – Teacher Development and Retention Program – Definition**

March 26, 2024

Mister Chairman and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

During the 2023 Session as part of the Maryland Educator Shortage Reduction Act, the legislature established the Teacher Development and Retention Program. This program offers support and stipends for aspiring educators in their first or second year at an eligible institution of higher education who ultimately pledge to fulfill a service obligation as a teacher in an area where there is a shortage of teachers. The way the legislation was crafted, the only community colleges eligible to participate in the program were Garrett College and Wor-Wic Community College.

Students are increasingly choosing community colleges as a first step to a four-year degree. With Community Colleges located throughout the state, students can start their higher education locally and save money in both living costs and tuition. Senate Bill 377 will amend the eligibility for higher education institutions to participate in the Program and allow all sixteen Maryland Community Colleges to participate.

Passage of this legislation will open the Program for more Maryland students' participation and will encourage and support more students to consider a career in education and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 377.