

**SB393\_MACC\_BradPhillips\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV

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**SENATE BUDGET & TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by  
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director  
January 31, 2024**

**SB 393 – Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program  
- Alterations**

**POSITION: Support**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, thanks Senator King for her sponsorship of SB 393, which expands the Facilities Renewal Grant to all 16 community colleges and ensures equitable funding across our campuses.

We are thankful to the General Assembly for realizing the importance and significance of the Facility Grant Renewal Program. While these achievements should not be understated, prior budgetary constraints have led to a continued backlog of deferred maintenance projects currently totaling more than \$115 million.

These projects include roof repairs, window, door, and boiler replacements, and even electrical upgrades. Given the age of our buildings, continued deferral can lead to increased costs in the long run. Failure to repair these or similar systems can also lead to disastrous environmental and health issues. In addition, completing these repairs at the expense of instructional funding is not a sustainable solution, and our colleges have avoided increasing tuition to pay for them, creating a substantial backlog.

The current Facilities Renewal Grant program only allows half of the colleges to receive funding in a given year. Due to the percentage tie to the CIP of the Construction Grant Program, there are annual fluctuations that have led to unequal distributions of funds year over year. SB393 is crucial in addressing these issues and ensuring that all community colleges in Maryland have access to the necessary funding to maintain safe and healthy learning environments for our students.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and all your efforts to meet the needs of the students we serve. MACC asks the Committee to give SB393 a favorable report.

**SB0393-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 393

### *Higher Education – Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: January 31, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 393. This bill would appropriately update the Community College Construction Program and its state funding to allow all 16 of Maryland’s community colleges to annually access critical funding for new construction and capital maintenance.

For years, community colleges have taken turns accessing the critical capital support of the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant (CCFRG) program and funds, with eight of the 16 applying for and receiving \$1 million grants one year and the other eight doing so the following year. This has created equity among the community colleges, but in doing so, critical capital projects go unfunded, delayed, and incomplete every year.

Under SB 393, the State would appropriately fund the CCFRG and allow every community college to pursue critical infrastructure and facilities projects annually without having to increase tuition and costs to do so.

This increased funding comes as community colleges need it more than ever to help Maryland communities rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic. Community colleges provide instruction in several critical workforce shortage areas such as allied health, construction trades, business, and several other critical shortage fields. Research continues to demonstrate Maryland is underproducing in the skills needed by employers in these categories.

By supporting the capital needs of our community colleges, SB 393 will help them expand these critical programs and serve a greater number of students and, in turn, help produce more graduates and qualified professionals in these in-demand fields. Furthermore, Maryland’s community colleges serve some of the state’s most vulnerable student populations, including a large portion of the state’s Pell Grant recipients.

Counties are proud to support community colleges and the students that they serve and welcome a deeper state partnership to prioritize these critical institutions as well. SB 393 is a strong step toward doing so, and for these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 393 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **Testimony SB0393 Higher Education-Community Colleg**

Uploaded by: Mary Bolt

Position: FAV



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Cecil College  
SB0393- Higher Education- Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program - Alterations

Budget and Taxation Committee  
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair  
TESTIMONY

Submitted by  
Dr. Mary Way Bolt, President  
Cecil College  
January 29, 2024

Position: Support

Thank you for accepting testimony on the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program-Alterations which will provide equitable funding for each community college on an annual schedule. The Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program (CCFRGP) within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) provides grants for improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects at the sixteen (16) community colleges, including Baltimore City Community College. The funds are to supplement any funds that community colleges provide in their respective budgets to accomplish facilities renewal projects.

The award of the State facilities renewal funds has provided Cecil College the opportunity to effectively address aging infrastructure. The grants provided a means to meaningfully engage in projects that were previously deferred and/or identified as a need during facilities and systems assessments. Some of our projects included building roof replacements and Variable Air Volume replacements within our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems.

However, the current funding implementation is challenged and poses a lack of equity among the colleges. The current program provides funding to eight of the sixteen community colleges on an annual basis but the funding varies significantly due to the tie to the formula whereby there is an appropriation in the budget equal to 5% of the appropriation to the Community College Construction Grant Program in the same fiscal year.

By supporting alterations in this bill, you are supporting community colleges. Marylanders will continue to have access to well-maintained facilities. Please support the amendment to annually appropriate in the operating or capital budget of MHEC an amount equal to 10% of the appropriation to the community college construction grant program in the same fiscal year to each community college. We know that Maryland's community colleges are a good investment for the State. Annually, thousands of students and their families access our courses, programs and events through our physical facilities.

I urge you to support the amendments to this bill and provide a budget for each community college to invest in the renewal of their facilities on an annual basis. Thank you for your support and your efforts to improve Maryland community colleges.

**Office of the President**

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# **SB393 King Sponsor Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

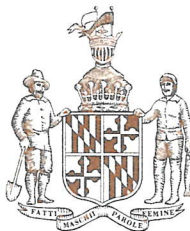
NANCY J. KING  
*Legislative District 39*  
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MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 393 – Higher Education –  
Community Colleges Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations**

January 31, 2024

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

In 2018 the legislature established the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant (CCFRG) program within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to provide grants for improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects at community colleges, including Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). Grants provided by the program are in addition to and do not supplant funds provided by the Community College Construction Grant program. The Governor must appropriate 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant program to the CCFRG program. Under CCFRG, MHEC may make up to eight grants in each fiscal year and no community college can receive more than \$500,000 in a fiscal year, and no community college can receive a grant in consecutive years.

Senate Bill 918 will increase the appropriation from 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant to 10%. The bill will further allow MHEC to make up to sixteen grants in each fiscal year.

We continue to ask our Community Colleges to try to hold the line on tuitions, but without the resources to fund necessary repairs and improvements, increased tuition may be their only recourse. Delays in these repairs will ultimately result in higher repair costs and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 393 so our Community Colleges can continue to provide a high-quality higher education in an environment that support students' safety and learning.