



# FREDERICK

## MARYLAND

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### **SB385: Education - Funding for General education Programs - Definition Alterations**

Favorable

Thank you for your consideration of SB385, a bill that seeks to address the school funding formula for high-growth jurisdictions. The legislation's intent is to consider the implications of a gap between when large numbers of new students arrive in the school system and State aid is applied. Our growth challenges are significant – while we work to adopt our policies at the local level, I respectfully ask that you assist our work and consider ways we can make modifications at the state level for our students.<sup>i</sup>

This Committee works incredibly hard to respond to the ever-changing fiscal climate. The Committee works hard to see that the needs of all Marylanders are considered. I respectfully request that your consideration of this legislation is one more tool we have to have the conversation about the funding formula and if the way we are currently operating is in fact addressing our needs in the best way. Frederick may be the high growth area today – and certainly we are proud that so many want to live in our great City – but we know our demographics are also an ever-changing data point. Your consideration of high-growth jurisdictions is smart policy-making for the future.

As a member of the City of Frederick's Board of Aldermen (City Council) with pride for pride for our City's 43,000 FCPS students, as well as a parent with a student in Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS), I respectfully recommend to the committee a Favorable vote on SB 0385.

Respectfully Submitted,

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<sup>i</sup> While Frederick County is currently experiencing the most significant student enrollment growth of all of Maryland's jurisdictions (9.8%), it is not the only one doing so, as others include Anne Arundel (1.4%), Charles (1.8%) and Carroll (2.4%) counties.