

Ellis Signed Testimony SB 12.pdf

Uploaded by: Arthur Ellis

Position: FAV

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Senate Chair
Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair, Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert
Counties' Senate Delegation



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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January 23, 2024

**Testimony of Senator Arthur Ellis in Support of Senate Bill 12: College of Southern Maryland -
Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations**

Dear Chair Feldman, Madam Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee:

This bill increases the membership of the Board of Trustees of the College of Southern Maryland by two members, from 9 to 11; and requires the two additional members of the Board of Trustees to be residents of Charles County.

I urge your favorable report on Senate Bill 12.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Ellis".

Arthur Ellis – District 28

SB12_MACC_BPhililps_Oppose.pdf

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: UNF

EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony by:
Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
January 24, 2024

SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees - Alterations

Position: Unfavorable

The Maryland Association of Community College (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, has concerns about SB 12, that would add 2 additional members from Charles County to the Board of Trustees.

Currently, the College of Southern Maryland is a regional college, governed by a Board of Trustees representing each county equally. Shared responsibility and equal representation are the principles behind all of Maryland's regional community colleges. If Trustee representation is no longer equal, as proposed in SB 12, the concept of a regional community college is at best challenged if not completely put in jeopardy.

The College of Southern Maryland must maintain its regional designation and representation of three Trustees per county. If one county has more representation than the other two as SB 12 proposes, not only is there the potential perception of disparities among counties but also in jeopardy is the college's capital needs for campuses that are in all 3 counties.

Senate Bill 12 ultimately impacts governance and resources as currently established by the Board of Trustees that allow regional colleges to support multiple counties. Making certain that a balanced framework remains will help provide educational opportunities to all residents of Charles County, Calvert County, and St. Mary's County. Having equal representation is the best safeguard to prevent improper power balances. Allowing each county to have a voice requires teamwork, collaboration, and support of each other, especially considering the challenges that all students face not only in southern Maryland, but across all of Maryland.

Because of these concerns, MACC urges an unfavorable report.

SB12__Christy Lombardi_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Christy Lombardi

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 12
Christy Lombardi, Trustee, Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report

January 24, 2024

I am Christy Lombardi, and as a Trustee for the College of Southern Maryland, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

The College of Southern Maryland must maintain its regional designation and representation of three Trustees per county. If one county has more representation than the other two as SB 12 proposes, not only is there the potential perception of disparities among counties but also in jeopardy is the college’s capital funding formula.

It is important to understand that the designation for being a regional community college carries with it a funding formula of 75 percent state allocation and 25 percent county allocation for capital projects. There are only two regional community colleges in Maryland – the College of Southern Maryland and Chesapeake College – with this unique allocation. With unequal county representation, the College of Southern Maryland would no longer be a regional college and we would be ineligible to apply this formula. This means capital project costs would instead be shared equally, 50/50, by the state and respective county.

Looking back, the fiscal impact of the 11 projects that the college has completed as a regional community college since 2000 would have been an additional \$37.8 million to the local jurisdictions without this regional designation. Charles County’s additional share would have been \$25 million; Calvert’s, \$6.9 million; and St. Mary’s, \$5.6 million. And, looking ahead, the fiscal impact on the county shares of capital projects in the next five years would be an additional \$4 million in St. Mary’s County and an additional \$18.8 million in Charles County.

For these reasons, I ask the committee’s unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Christy Lombardi, Trustee
Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland

CalvertCounty_OPP_SB0012.pdf

Uploaded by: Earl Hance

Position: UNF



**CALVERT COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-1600 • 301-855-1243
www.calvertcountymd.gov

Board of Commissioners
Mark C. Cox Sr.
Catherine M. Grasso
Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Todd Ireland

January 23, 2024

The Honorable Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB0012 – College of Southern Maryland - Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

Senator Feldman:

The Board of County Commissioners for Calvert County joins the College of Southern Maryland and writes to also **OPPOSE SB0012** and ask the Committee for an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT**.

Charles County Community College served Calvert and St. Mary's counties under operational agreements until 1999 Laws of Maryland Ch. 695 created the regional College of Southern Maryland. The College of Southern Maryland has as its governing body a Board of Trustees. There are nine Trustees, three from each county, each appointed by the governor. Because the leadership of the College of Southern Maryland do not support the change in the structure of its Trustees, we likewise, do not support an inequitable increase in the allocation of seats.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact County Administrator Julian M. Willis at 410-535-1600, extension 2201, or County Attorney John Norris at 410-535-1600, extension 2566. Thank you for your kind consideration of our position regarding this important Bill.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CALVERT COUNTY, MARYLAND

Handwritten signature of Earl F. Hance in blue ink.

Earl F. Hance, President

Handwritten signature of Catherine M. Grasso in blue ink.

Catherine M. Grasso, Vice President

Handwritten signature of Mark C. Cox Sr. in blue ink.

Mark C. Cox Sr.

Handwritten signature of Mike Hart in blue ink.

Mike Hart

Handwritten signature of Todd Ireland in blue ink.

Todd Ireland

cc: The Honorable Senator Michael Jackson
The Honorable Senator Jack Bailey

SB12_CSM Board of Trustees_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Karen Smith Hupp

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 12
Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report
January 24, 2024

As the Board of Trustees for the College of Southern Maryland, we request an Unfavorable Report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations.

While recognizing the distinct nature of proposed Senate Bills SB 12 and SB 81, it is important to note that these bills are similar in that they both address governance and resource allocation within the context of a regional framework. Our concern lies in the potential for the proposed changes to create imbalances and disrupt the collaborative spirit of the existing board and the operational efficiencies and student equity that have been achieved through the current legislation.

The College of Southern Maryland is a regional college, governed by a Board of Trustees representing each county equally. Founded in 1958 in Charles County, the college expanded in 1978 to serve St. Mary’s County and again in 1980 to serve Calvert County. In 2000, the State formalized this tri-county scope by creating the regional College of Southern Maryland.

Shared ownership is the principle behind establishing a Regional Community College. If trustee representation is no longer equal, as proposed in SB 12, the concept of a regional community college as defined in Section 16-202 is in jeopardy. Section 16-601 of the Education Code specifically states the intent to create a regional college which is defined in Section 16-202 which requires a board of trustees to have an equal number of members from each county it serves.

The designation for being a regional community college carries with it a capital projects funding formula of 75% state allocation and 25% county allocation. Two regional community colleges in Maryland – CSM and Chesapeake College – have this unique allocation. With unequal county representation, CSM would no longer be a regional college and therefore ineligible to apply this formula. Capital project costs would be shared equally, 50/50, by the state and respective county.

The fiscal impact of the 11 projects that the College of Southern Maryland has completed since 2000 as a regional community college would have been an additional \$37.8 million to the local jurisdictions without this regional designation. The future fiscal impact on county shares of capital projects in the next five years would be an additional \$4 million in St. Mary’s County and an additional \$18.8 million in Charles County.

Collaboration is important to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland. However, SB 12 would create an imbalance, and if one county has more representation than the other two, it can lead to the perception of disparities in educational opportunities and services among the three counties. An equal number of representatives assumes an equal say in decision-making and resource allocation.

When creating the College of Southern Maryland, much deliberation by the respective Boards of Commissioners and our delegations determined the most effective and equitable approach to governance was through a shared ownership model of board leadership whereby each county would be equally represented. There are nine of us, three from each county appointed by the Governor, and this equal representation benefits both our communities and our students.

As a board, the nine trustees have always and will continue to work collaboratively with profound respect and recognition of each other's perspectives. Each of the trustees performs our duties with due diligence to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland. One priority of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that the College serves all students equally and equitably. As a regional community college, CSM supports each location equitably, in accordance with their unique needs and student population. As of FY23, there are 14,329 students from throughout Southern Maryland attending CSM. Of these students, almost 45 percent attend two or more campus locations across the three counties and another 32 percent take online classes. Students are CSM Hawks, regardless of where they live or attend class. They do not see county boundaries or limitations in educational services, programs, or offerings because we collaborate from a regional approach.

The Board should be balanced, unbiased, and, while representing their respective counties, have a clear understanding of the regional significance of their decisions. We assure you that we do. At the heart of this institution is our shared commitment to meet the needs of our diverse and changing region. We are truly honored and privileged to serve the students who come to our institution from all corners of our region seeking knowledge, skills, a better income, and more opportunities to support themselves and their families.

As our president, Dr. Yolanda Wilson so eloquently reminds us through the African proverb – to go far, we must go together. As Trustees for the College of Southern Maryland, “going together” means equally sharing and embracing our responsibility for the benefit of all of Southern Maryland. We ask the committee's unfavorable report to SB 12.

Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland

Shawn B. Coates, Chair
Sonja M. Cox, Vice Chair
Kenneth (Kee) Abell
Celeste Alexander-Frye
Cathy Allen
Pamela Cousins
Jose Gonzalez
Christy Lombardi
Cordelia Postell

SB12_Kee Abell_Unfavorable.pdf_safe (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Kenneth Abell

Position: UNF



Senate Bill 12
Kee Abell, Trustee, Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report

January 24, 2024

I am Kee Abell, and as a trustee for the College of Southern Maryland, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

The College of Southern Maryland is a regional college, governed by a Board of Trustees representing each county equally. The Governor appoints our Trustees, with the current membership being three Trustees from each of the three Counties.

As a board, the nine Trustees have always and will continue to work collaboratively with profound respect and recognition of each other’s perspectives. Each of the Trustees performs our duties with due diligence to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland.

One priority of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that the College serves all students equally and equitably. It would be difficult to maintain parity across the three counties with an unbalanced Board.

Students are CSM Hawks, regardless of where they live or attend class. The Board should be balanced, unbiased, and, while representing their respective counties, have a clear understanding of the regional significance of their decisions. I can assure you; we do.

The concern with SB 12 is the perception of disparities that would arise in educational opportunities and services among the three counties. In the long term, having two additional Trustees on the College’s Board and creating an imbalanced Board favoring one county can lead to a significant negative impact.

I ask that the committee give an unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Kee Abell, Trustee
Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland

SB12. Opposition Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Reuben Collins

Position: UNF



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

January 23, 2024

Bill: SB 12 College of Southern Maryland - Board of Trustees Membership - Alterations
Committee: Senate – Education, Energy, and the Environment
Position: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Feldman, Vice Chairwoman Kagan, and Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to express opposition to SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland - Board of Trustees Membership - Alterations.

SB 12 requires at least five members residing in Charles County be appointed to the Board of Trustees for the College of Southern Maryland (the "Board"). Currently, the Board is comprised of three members from Charles, Calvert, and St. Mary's counties, totaling nine members. This is consistent with Md. Ann. Code, Education Art. Section 16–604, that requires at least three members on the Board from each participating county in the region.

Md. Ann. Code, Education Art. Section 16–202 provides that a board of trustees for a regional community college shall have an equal number of members from each county in the region. By increasing membership of Charles County residents on the Board, we are concerned that the College of Southern Maryland will no longer meet the definition of a regional community college. If the College of Southern Maryland is no longer a regional community college under the law, it will no longer qualify for the capital projects funding formula of 75% state allocation and 25% county allocation provided at Md. Ann. Code, Education Art. Section 11–105(j)(6), and the cost of capital projects would instead be borne equally between the state and county. We expect such a change in the funding structure to cost our regional county governments approximately \$22.8 million over the next five years for capital projects. We cannot support such a detrimental impact to our budget in exchange for additional Board members, particularly when we are unclear of what challenges exist due to the existing membership structure this bill seeks to remedy.

For the reasons stated herein, we encourage a UNFAVORABLE report on SB 12. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
County Commissioners of Charles County

cc: Charles County Delegation

SB12__Shawn Coates_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Shawn Coates

Position: UNF

Senate Bill 12
Shawn Coates, Chair, Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report

January 24, 2024

I am Shawn Coates, Trustee Chair for the College of Southern Maryland. On behalf of college's full board, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

The College of Southern Maryland is a regional college, governed by a Board of Trustees representing each county equally. Founded in 1958 in Charles County, the college expanded in 1978 to serve St. Mary's County and again in 1980 to serve Calvert County. In 2000, the State formalized this tri-county scope by creating the regional College of Southern Maryland.

Much deliberation by the three respective Boards of County Commissioners and our Delegations at that time determined the most effective and equitable approach to governance was through a shared ownership model of board leadership whereby each county would be equally represented. There are nine of us, three from each county appointed by the Governor, and in my experience, this equal representation benefits both our communities and our students.

Shared ownership is the principle behind establishing a Regional Community College. If Trustee representation is no longer equal, as proposed in SB 12, the concept of a Regional Community College as defined in Section 16-202 is in jeopardy. Section 16-601 of the Education Code specifically states the intent to create a regional college which is defined in Section 16-202 which requires a Board of Trustees to have an equal number of members from each county it serves.

As a Trustee since 2018 and as the grandson of Trustee Emeritus Veronica Coates, one of Charles County's community leaders who served as the college's Trustee from 1976 to 1993, I am humbled to walk in her footsteps and to work collectively, collaboratively, and respectfully with my fellow Trustees.

At the heart of this institution is our shared commitment to meet the needs of our diverse and changing region. We are truly honored and privileged to serve the students who come to our institution from all corners of our region seeking knowledge, skills, a better income, and more opportunities to support themselves and their families.

As our president, Dr. Yolanda Wilson so eloquently reminds us through the African proverb, to go far, we must go together. As Trustees for the College of Southern Maryland, “going together” means equally sharing and embracing our responsibility for the benefit of all of Southern Maryland.

I ask the committee’s unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Shawn Coates, Chair
Board of Trustees, College of Southern Maryland

SB12__Yolanda Wilson_Unfavorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Yolanda Wilson

Position: INFO

**Senate Bill 12
Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President, College of Southern Maryland
Unfavorable Report**

January 24, 2024

I am Dr. Yolanda Wilson, and as president of the College of Southern Maryland, I ask for an unfavorable report for SB 12 – College of Southern Maryland – Board of Trustees Membership – Alterations

While recognizing the distinct nature of proposed Senate bills SB 12 and SB 81, it is important to note that these bills are similar in that they both address governance and resource allocation within the context of a regional framework.

Our concern lies in the potential for the proposed changes to create imbalances and disrupt the collaborative spirit of the existing Board and the operational efficiencies and student equity that have been achieved through the current legislation.

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This collaboration is important to best serve the needs of all residents of Southern Maryland. However, SB 12 would create an imbalance, and if one county has more representation than the other two, it can lead to the perception of disparities in educational opportunities and services among the three counties.

An equal number of representatives assumes an equal say in decision-making and resource allocation.

I urge this committee to give an unfavorable report to SB 12. Thank you.

Dr. Yolanda Wilson, President
College of Southern Maryland