
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.