

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