



CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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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