

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 81 (Senator Ellis)
Education, Energy, and the Environment

Higher Education - College of Southern Maryland - Budget

This bill changes the local budgetary process for the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) by requiring the budget to be separated by campus. The county commissioners in each county that supports the college (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties) must review and approve the CSM budget made to the resident campus in their county rather than the entire CSM budget. The bill also requires the budget to include specified information. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at local entities.

Local Effect: Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties’ expenditures are likely not materially affected, as explained below. CSM revenues and expenditures are likely not materially affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Board of Trustees may approve transfers of appropriations for direct or indirect costs in order to ensure the mission of CSM.

The operating budget that must be submitted to the county commissioners is required to show:

- all revenues for each campus;

- specified direct expenditures for each campus by major function;
- all indirect expenditures for institutional support; and
- all other indirect expenditures.

This bill reverses the changes to the CSM budget process made by Chapter 393 of 2020.

Current Law: CSM is a public, regional community college serving Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties. It was established in statute by Chapter 695 of 1999 from the existing Charles County Community College. CSM operates four campuses in the tri-county area: two in Charles County and one each in Calvert and St. Mary's counties. CSM is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees, who are appointed for five-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Under current law, each year the Board of Trustees of CSM and the President of CSM must prepare and submit to the county commissioners specified documents including an annual report, a unified operating budget, a capital budget, and, if required, a long-term capital improvement plan. The county commissioners in each county must review and approve the budget request made to that county and may reduce it.

Local Fiscal Effect: Under the bill, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's county commissioners each receive a CSM budget for the resident campus located in the county. In addition to information currently received, commissioners receive direct expenditures for each campus by major function. As under current law, the commissioners may choose to reduce the funding.

Charles County advises that the bill could shift costs among Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties; however, the ultimate impact is unknown. St. Mary's County likewise advises that the bill could result in increased costs for counties, depending on the percentage share charged to them. The Department of Legislative Services (DLS) advises that any impact on Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's counties is likely not material.

DLS advises CSM revenues and expenditures are likely not materially affected, although revenues and expenditures could increase or decrease under the bill. Any actual impact depends on the actions of the supporting counties (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's) and how the funding requests are made.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Charles and St. Mary's counties; College of Southern Maryland;
Department of Legislative Services

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km/ljm

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