

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1104
Appropriations

(Delegate Bohanan, *et al.*)

Higher Education - St. Mary's College of Maryland - Governing Authority

This bill provides that the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College of Maryland may not have its authority in managing the affairs of the college superseded by any State agency, except as provided in State law by specific reference to the college.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: While arguably providing more flexibility to the board of trustees to manage its own affairs, the bill would not materially impact the finances of the State or St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The St. Mary's College of Maryland Board of Trustees may not be superseded in its authority by any State agency or office in managing the affairs of the college, except as expressly provided in State law.

Background: In 1992, HB 1327 granted the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's College of Maryland the authority to oversee and manage its budget, personnel, and other affairs of the college. In exchange for the increased autonomy, St. Mary's College agreed to an annual State grant amount that is only increased to reflect inflation. St. Mary's believes

the General Assembly unintentionally impacted this agreement with legislation that passed last year.

Language in the fiscal 2003 budget bill (SB 175 of 2002) specified that merit increases could only be provided as one-time bonuses and only if the Board of Public Works approved the increases. Because of its unique arrangement with the State, St. Mary's College argued that the language should not be applicable to the college. In addition, the General Assembly passed legislation regarding information technology projects (SB 491/HB 835) that, according to St. Mary's College, should not apply to the college. This bill is intended to clarify the original intent of HB 1327 in order to prevent future bills from inadvertently affecting the college.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 706 (Senator Miller, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): St. Mary's College of Maryland, Maryland Higher Education Commission, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 10, 2003
ncs/jr

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