

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

Senate Bill 526

(Senator McCray, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
 and Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

**Legal Education Success Collaborative - Established**

This bill establishes the Legal Education Success Collaborative between the University of Baltimore (UB) School of Law, the University of Maryland (UM) School of Law, and the Maryland historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to increase diversity in the legal field. Beginning in fiscal 2023, the Governor must appropriate \$125,000 to each scholars program at the UB School of Law and the UM School of Law. The UB School of Law and the UM School of Law must each match up to \$125,000 of the State appropriation. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2021.**

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Beginning in FY 2023, general fund expenditures increase by \$250,000 annually; higher education revenues at the UB and UM law schools increase correspondingly. Due to the supplemental funding matching requirement, UB and UM law school higher education expenditures increase by a total of \$500,000 annually. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2023.**

(in dollars)	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Higher Ed Rev.	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
GF Expenditure	\$0	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Higher Ed Exp.	\$0	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

## Analysis

**Bill Summary:** The UB Law and HBCU Cooperative must be developed and administered by the UB School of Law. The UM School of Law Diversity and Inclusion Scholars Program must be developed and administered by the UM School of Law.

The funding under the bill is supplemental to and may not supplant funding that would otherwise be included for the scholars program, Maryland HBCUs, UB, or the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus.

**Current Law:** The UB School of Law and the UM School of Law are the two public law schools in the State. The four Maryland HBCUs are Bowie State University, Coppin State University, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Morgan State University.

**State Fiscal Effect:** Beginning in fiscal 2023, general fund expenditures increase by a total of \$250,000 annually. Higher education revenues at the UB School of Law and the UM School of Law increase accordingly (\$125,000 for each school of law). Under the bill, the UB School of Law and the UM School of Law must each provide funding for the scholars program to match the amount of general funds provided in the annual budget bill, up to \$125,000 each. Thus, UB and UM law school higher education expenditures increase by a total of \$500,000 (\$250,000 general funds, \$250,000 matching funds). It is assumed that both law schools match the full \$125,000 State funding each year; to the extent they do not, general fund expenditures decrease to the amount of matching funds provided in total.

Funding is to expand the diversity programs at the law schools. The UM Carey School of Law advises that the additional funds will substantially increase its efforts to recruit a diverse student body by enhancing existing pipeline and diversity scholarship programs. The UB School of Law advises that the UB Law and HBCU Cooperative will enable it to expand and continue to offer law school preparation, mentorship, and career preparation in an effort to increase diversity in the legal field.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** A similar bill, SB 435 of 2020, was referred to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee; it received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 1268 (Delegate Henson) - Appropriations.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Higher Education Commission; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** rh/rhh  
First Reader - February 24, 2021  
Third Reader - March 31, 2021  
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