

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 530
Appropriations

(Delegate Ivey)

**Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Disparities Within and
Independence From University System of Maryland - Study**

This bill requires the University System of Maryland (USM) to contract with an independent consultant to study and make recommendations on (1) the existence of disparities between the historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other universities within USM, as specified; (2) processes by which HBCUs could become independent from USM while still maintaining funding from the State; and (3) the impact on Morgan State University (MSU) of gaining independence from USM. USM must report findings and recommendations by December 1, 2022. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022, and terminates June 30, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: USM higher education expenditures increase by an estimated \$50,000 in FY 2023 to hire an independent consultant to conduct the required study and make recommendations. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: USM consists of 11 degree-granting institutions, a research center, and the system office, which operates three regional higher education centers. Three of the State's four HBCUs – Bowie State University, Coppin State University, and the University of

Maryland Eastern Shore – are constituent institutions of USM. The fourth, MSU, is not part of USM.

State Expenditures: USM must contract with an independent consultant to study and make recommendations on the three topics specified in the bill. If the consultant is hired on July 1, 2022, the bill's effective date, the consultant has five months to conduct the required study by December 1, 2022. Any delay in hiring a consultant for the project reduces the time available for the study. For the purpose of this estimate, it is assumed that USM higher education expenditures increase by approximately \$50,000 in fiscal 2023. Actual costs depend on the funds made available and the bids received from consultants.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 16, 2022
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