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Anne Arundel County

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

House Bill 546
Anne Arundel County – Board of Community College Trustees
with amendment

Cross-file: SB 31

SPONSOR TESTIMONY - SUPPORT

House Appropriations – February 4, 2020

Chairwoman McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson and Members of the Committee:

House Bill 546 creates term limits for the Community College Trustees and requires all Board members to be residents of Anne Arundel County. This is a Delegation bill.

Each Trustee may serve three four-year terms for a total of twelve years. We have an amendment that was presented to Committee for the cross-file bill, SB 31, and approved by the Committee, which will make the bill prospective. As each trustee completes their current term, they will be eligible to serve three more four-year terms, if they are reappointed.

According to "Board Source" term limits are an effective means of:

- keeping a board full of involved active members,
- creating new enthusiasm and
- preventing burn out of dedicated supporters.

There is a great deal written about the positive effect of instituting term limits on boards. Term limits bring more diversity to a board, re-energize other board members, and helps to avoid the risk of an organization being seen as an insiders club. The IRS and other organizations that evaluate board performance favor term limits because they believe that static board membership leads to unhealthy attitudes which can cause boards to govern out of self-interest rather than community interest. HB 546 allows the appointments to remain staggered providing a built-in balance of continuity and turn over. Term limits will raise awareness and improve group dynamics, enlarging the circle of influence and increasing the number of committed supporters.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report of HB 546, with the amendment.