



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**HB 1300**

**DATE: February 17, 2020**

**SPONSOR: The Speaker (By Request – Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education) and Delegate McIntosh, *et al.***

**ASSIGNED TO: Appropriations and Ways and Means**

**CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher ([kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov))**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

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### **Blueprint for Maryland's Future – Implementation**

This bill reaffirms the broad policy goals underpinning the recommended changes to the State's prekindergarten through grade 12 (PreK-12) educational system that are outlined in the January 2019 Interim Report of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (Commission). The core of the Commission's visionary report is a 10-year phase-in between FY21 and FY30 of dramatic changes to the State's approach to early childhood education, recruiting and retaining teachers, college and career readiness pathways, resources needed for students with special needs, and governance and accountability. The bill also implements recommendations developed during the 2019 Interim by the Commission's Funding Formula Workgroup regarding allocation of total costs between the State and local governments and how to phase in new formulas and funding.

The County strongly supports the overall vision reflected in the bill, including enhanced funding for base per pupil costs, students from low-income families, English language learners, special education, struggling learners, concentrations of poverty, pre-kindergarten, college and career readiness, Judy Centers and other family support services, school-based health centers, comparable wage differences and teacher salaries, recruitment and retention. We agree with the Commission that Maryland's economic future is dependent on a highly skilled and well-educated workforce that can compete in the global economy, and that high-quality education/skills training is the only path out of poverty.

The County remains concerned that it cannot verify the fiscal impact of House Bill 1300 because key data relating to the Commission's model have not been provided. The County previously requested data that was used for Statewide FY21-FY30 projections of enrollment, net taxable income and assessable property base. In addition, the County requested an explanation of the methodology that was used to project local appropriations for FY21-FY30. Although the Commission's model projects that the FY30 cost to the County is \$261 million, the "trend line" methodology used for that projection is not a traditional fiscal impact analysis because it does not compare the projected cost of the Kirwan plan to the projected cost of meeting maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements under current law. In order to fully understand the fiscal impact of the bill, the County respectfully requests that the Commission release its trend line methodology and the underlying data referenced above.

The County is grateful for the Commission's extraordinary work and looks forward to participating in discussions regarding an equitable allocation of State and local funding in the final implementation plan.