



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB 1

January 19, 2021

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: HOUSE BILL 1 – Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Funding
POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1.

HB 1 seeks to resolve the over a decade long lawsuit under the Coalition for Excellence and Equity in *Maryland Higher Education, et al., v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al* by providing the Historically Black Colleges and Universities of Maryland (HBCUs) with \$577 million over 10 years. The bill also creates a HBCU Reserve Fund to hold unused funds and establishes a new unit in the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to review new academic programs.

Baltimore City is proud to be home to two of the state's four HBCUs -- Morgan State University and Coppin State University. The money from the bill would help expand academic program offerings, recruit and develop faculty talent, provide students with scholarships, and improve the overall competitiveness and attractiveness of these institutions.

The funding helps provide a path forward from the wrong of inequities that burdened the HBCUs in Baltimore City and around the State.

Accordingly, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 1.