

ANTONIO HAYES
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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 3, 2021

**Testimony of Senator Antonio Hayes in Support of SB 326:
Baltimore City Community College – Procurement Authority**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee:

According to the current Maryland Education law 16–505., Baltimore City Community College is required to receive multiple levels of approval from various oversight commissions in order to gain procurement authority over their institution. This process can take anywhere from a few months to a few years.

Senate Bill 326 is being reintroduced this session for the purpose of exempting Baltimore City Community College from Division II of the State procurement law. The bill also requires that the BCCC Board of Trustees create new procurement policies – subject to AELR and BPW review. Removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers when requesting procurement allows colleges to become empowered with updated technology and materials in a timely fashion, benefiting both universities and students alike. The current law currently exempts the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), and St. Mary’s College of Maryland (SMCM) from the same provisions of procurement law that are in place for BCCC, which allows those higher education institutions to move forward with projects at a higher rate of speed than other institutions. These universities are able to upgrade facilities quicker and provide their students with higher quality materials than other schools in Maryland.

The autonomy granted by the bill will create more channels of operational efficiency for the college. BCCC will assume the new responsibilities and procurement authority with existing resources and will not pose a financial burden to Baltimore City or the state of Maryland.

I urge a favorable vote on Senate Bill 326.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes", written in a cursive style.

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District - MD