

SAMUEL I. "SANDY" ROSENBERG
Legislative District 41
Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Government Operations and
Health Facilities Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Respond to Office Indicated

☐ Annapolis Office

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 365
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3297 · 301-858-3297
800-492-7122 Ext. 3297
Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us

☐ District Office

4811 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21207
410-664-2646

Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Appropriations Committee

In Support Of

House Bill 255

Internship Programs – Alteration, Creation, and Income Tax Credit

Madam Chairwoman of the Committee:

“It used to be if you had a degree, you had a job... Suddenly, degrees aren’t worth anything... because you need an MA where the previous job required a BA, and now you need a PhD for the other.” -Sir Ken Robinson

An October 2020 Pew survey found 2020 college graduates were 9% less likely to find a job than their colleagues who graduated a year ahead of them.^[1] Additionally, 2020 graduates were 11% less likely to be participating in the workforce than 2008 graduates who had graduated in the heart of the Great Recession. With entry into the workforce becoming more competitive, more is needed for underprivileged Americans than simply tuition money.

A 2018 survey of over 95,000 job postings alleging to seek full-time “entry-level” employees found that 61% asked for at least three years of experience.^[2] According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) 2012 Internship & Co-op Survey, 60% of college graduates who had completed a paid internship received job offers, while only 36% of graduates who had not interned received job offers.^[3] Many college students have to work part or even full-time jobs to afford the cost of being a student, which does not allow them to take on unpaid internships.

This body has long recognized the importance of internships and the investment in education. In 1987 the Governor’s Summer Internship Program was created to create opportunities and training for students interested in a career in public service. In 2014, HB 1317 passed unanimously, creating the Maryland Technology Internship Program. Four years later, that program was expanded, again unanimously. House Bill 255 builds on those programs and bring attention to an often overlooked sector of education.

In his book “In Defense of a Liberal Arts Education,” Fareed Zakaria writes “In the 1950s and 1960s... students saw college as more than a glorified trade school.” Lower and middle-class students,

and students from immigrant families “enthusiastically embraced the liberal arts” not only as preparation for a job but also preparation to assimilate with white collar American culture.^[4] As the price of education has gone up, humanities studies have been in decline. In 1971 “Liberal Arts, General Studies and Humanities” represented 9% of degrees awarded in America. In 2019 that number had plummeted to 2%.^[4] During that same period Business degrees have swelled from 13% to 20%, and health related degrees expanded from 3% to 13%.

Charities, community engagement groups, and other NGOs that provide invaluable services to the community very often lack the resources to hire adequate staff. Organizations such as Art with a Heart, ACLU, United Way, Baltimore Corps and so many more need interns to establish strong workforce pipelines to grow their strategic goals and initiatives and move their mission forward.

House Bill 255 will encourage students to pursue studies that help them grow as people rather than view college as a glorified trade school, help community-oriented students earn valuable experience, and help community groups and non-profits find the workers and resources to continue to carry out their missions. HB 255 expands the opportunities created under the Maryland Technology Internship Program to more community-oriented businesses, while also increasing the maximum annual reimbursement for stipends to be paid to each intern. Additionally, it would establish the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program, which would:

- (1) Connect college and university students, recent graduates, and veterans with small, liberal arts-based organizations through internships;
- (2) Encourage high-achieving students at institutions of higher education in Maryland to remain in the State after graduation;
- (3) Increase student understanding of employment opportunities in the State;
- (4) Create connections between students and community business leaders and entrepreneurs and develop opportunities for student involvement in communities;
- (5) Assist small humanities-based organizations in developing internship programs and recruiting future employees; and
- (6) Foster business retention and development, job creation, workforce development, and new investment in the State.

This bill also sets out how the University of Maryland Baltimore County would carry out this program, as well as the qualifications to be accepted into the program and forms of financial aid it would provide.

To make education more accessible to people who have been negatively affected by the pandemic, a student enrolled at a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State who possesses a certificate of approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission would only need to maintain a cumulative 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale each academic year. Lastly, of note, the program would provide tax credits for enrolled employers of up to \$4,200 for each eligible intern as compensation for helping assist the State’s efforts to provide this training to our students.

I urge the Committee to act favorably on House Bill 255.

January 28, 2022