



Peter Franchot
Comptroller

TESTIMONY OF COMPTROLLER PETER FRANCHOT

Support - House Bill 1030 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Procedures - Alterations

Appropriations Committee

March 1, 2022

Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang and members of the Committee, it is my pleasure to provide testimony in **support** of **House Bill 1030 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Procedures - Alterations**. I would like to thank Delegate Stephanie Smith for sponsoring this important legislation, and the Committee for providing the opportunity for my testimony to be heard.

This legislation will improve the process by which college students - particularly those from lower income households - access state-based educational aid. It has long been a priority of the Comptroller's Office to modernize antiquated systems within state government, and this is one such opportunity. Our agency stands ready to assist with the improvements envisioned by this legislation that will advance the timing and accuracy of income verification for parents and students, hopefully reducing financial stress ahead of the next phase of their academic careers. This is a long-overdue fix that ought to be welcomed by each of the parties to these transactions.

If passed, HB1030 will be a win for Maryland's educational institutions, parents, and - most importantly - students working hard to advance their skills and contribute to our economy.

For the reasons stated above, I respectfully request a **favorable report** for House Bill 1030. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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