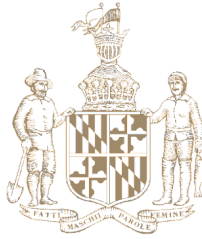


JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 30, 2022

House Bill 1444 - Income Tax Credit - Endowments of Maryland Historically Black Colleges - Sunset Repeal

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1444 - Income Tax Credit - Endowments of Maryland Historically Black Colleges - Sunset Repeal**, which would extend the termination date by five years of certain provisions of law that allow a credit against the State income tax for a certain amount of donations to certain permanent endowment funds at certain institutions of higher education; and generally relating to State income tax credits for donations to endowment funds.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have served the purpose of educating black people, who were once legally denied a right to education. Maryland is home to four HBCUs: institutions of this nature: Bowie State University, Morgan State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Coppin State University. According to the Century Foundation, the average endowment at public universities without HBCU status was 3.5 times greater. Additionally, the endowment at private institutions were reported to be 7 times larger than their HBCU counterparts. While these institutions produce more than 20% of African American professionals, they are historically underfunded.

Under the current endowment tax credit program, each Maryland HBCU is allotted up to \$60,000 of the tax credit for its donors. On application by a taxpayer, the Comptroller shall issue a credit certificate in the amount of 25% of a proposed donation to a qualified permanent endowment fund at an institution of higher education.

The campaign to level the financial playing field amongst institutions of higher learning by increasing the endowment funds of Historically Black Colleges and Universities is a national action. Maryland should continue to afford this state income tax credit for these historical institutions at home, and for these reasons, I urge the committee to vote **favorably** on HB1444.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins'.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins