



House Appropriations Committee

Testimony by

Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

March 10, 2022

SB 795 – Community Colleges and Nonprofit Institutions of Higher Education - Funding

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, offer our support for SB 795 that would increase the percentage funding tie to 30 percent of what the full-time equivalent student at the State's select public four-year institutions receive, within the Senator John A. Cade Funding formula and also increase the percentage tie in Baltimore City Community College's formula to 69 percent.

The percentage tie represents a policy position that equates funding levels for community colleges and senior public institutions as being fair and equitable considering our unique missions and student populations. Too often Cade & BCCC increases are viewed as year over year increases and not as a policy that provides parity among Maryland public higher education institutions.

As the State wrestles with rebuilding after the pandemic and the social and economic injustices that have become undeniably visible in the past few years, an increase of 1 percent in our Cade formula and 0.5 percent for BCCC represents a modest step towards helping our institutions build a stronger and more inclusive economy. Our communities, our State, and our economic wellbeing are only as strong as those in our state who have the support needed to join the workforce and increase their quality of life.

The 30-percent tie has already been passed by the General Assembly in 2006, with the passage of Senate Bill 356, which originally required the Cade formula to achieve this goal in FY2013. Unfortunately, a change was made in 2011 in the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (BRFA) that rebased this percentage to 29 percent and pushed this policy goal out to this current year's Cade formula (FY 2023). This was a mistake to make policy decisions within the BRFA as this Act should be used solely for balancing the current year's budget, not establishing funding levels for future years.

As community colleges have struggled to reach an equitable funding level that has been provided to the public four-year institutions, the State has also passed several additional mandates that have required resources for each of our colleges. It is important that MACC convey our support for the additional requirements, as they are necessary for each of our colleges to provide, but they have been additional

costs to our operations and our counties and students have had to absorb the bulk of these increased costs. A short list is below:

Title IX Coordinator	Naloxone Supplies and Training
Title IX IT Support	Sick and Safe Leave Implementation
Title IX – Training	Campus Climate Survey
IT Mandated Compliance Training	Campus Police Firearms Training
Veterans Affairs Coordination	Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse
Campus Police Emergency Management Training	Opioid and Hazing Training for Students
Collective Bargaining Implementation	Several Add. Mandatory Reporting Requirements

There are several bills currently during this year’s Legislative Session that will also add additional expenses and responsibilities without additional funding. There are also several federal mandates too that have been needed but have also increased our operating costs, such as the Affordable Care Act and the Clery Act.

The additional increase from this legislation will provide a stable, predictable increase for Maryland’s community colleges to fund the growing needs in our operating budgets over the past several years. An increase will also help us look to the future to build an inclusive economy through developing new programs that address our workforce shortages, expand the necessary student services, and other potential mandates that pass this year as well.

I ask the Committee for a favorable report on SB 795.