

Daniel Curry.SB383.HB531_.pdf

Uploaded by: Dan Curry

Position: FAV

Testimony SB383/HB531
Budget and Taxation Committee
Position: Support
February 8, 2022

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee I Strongly urge your support of SB383/HB531 the “Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation – Extension.”

My school district Calvert County Public Schools was the first district in Maryland to achieve 100% Maryland Green Schools status. This was not only an honor, but a statement about the goals of the school district. I have been Superintendent of Calvert County Public Schools since July 1, 2014 and was so glad to discover the long term investment my district was making in environmental education.

Green Schools are schools who have chosen to maintain a healthy environment that can support a successful learning environment while saving energy, valuable resources, and money. The CCPS *Green School* drive has been pulsating through our schools since the inception of our environmental education program for the Calvert County Public School System (CHESPAX). Environmental Education is important in our district and Board of Education staff work closely with local, state and regional partner agencies to provide hands-on environmental education experiences for our students.

The Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River and other natural settings serve as living laboratories for students to use their science content and process skills to learn to make responsible decisions regarding the natural environment.

The Maryland Association of Environmental Outdoor Education (MAEOE) has been leading and managing the Maryland Green Schools program since 1999. We are proud to say that CCPS

was the first school district in Maryland where 100% of our K-12 schools are certified. Of those 24 schools, 11 of them have reached a sustainable status. Queen Anne's County Public Schools joined us in 2020 and we would like to see other school districts achieve 100% Green Schools.

The Green School Application process that requires the facilitation of a dedicated person or group of individuals with a passion to cultivate a green climate in their school. Our Green School coordinators must enlist a team at the staff and student level to ensure each objective is met and that the school is successful. The commitment and dedication involved requires commitment of administrators, staff, students, partners and the community.

The Green Schools Act makes a difference for school districts like ours where we are committed to having all schools maintain their Green Schools status and to those school districts where there are few or no Green Schools. There is no monetary award to become green. But these funds which go out to teachers, schools, and partners throughout the state and can motivate and strengthen programs. This will have long-term implications and support school system sustainability goals. Our greatest motivation is teaching our students the importance of being a steward of our environment.

Please support this Bill and Maryland Green Schools.

Daniel Curry, Ed.D
Superintendent
Calvert County Public Schools

Elizabeth McCook testimony for MAEOE SB383HB531.pd

Uploaded by: Elizabeth McCook

Position: FAV

Testimony SB383/HB531
Budget and Taxation Committee
Position: Support
February 8, 2022

Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee: I Strongly urge your support of SB383/HB531 the “Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation – Extension.”

My name is Elizabeth McCook, I am currently a high school science teacher at Urbana High School in Frederick County, Maryland. I have been teaching in Maryland for the past 36 years, 23 of them here at Urbana High School. I am an Environmental Science teacher and have come to know the value of providing students with learning opportunities that are real and relevant to their everyday lives. Environmental Education is a fantastic way for students to see connections between the classroom and their surroundings, our environment. Several years ago, along with much support and guidance, my students started a composting program in our school cafeteria. Support from MAEOE and community organizations have helped this grow into initiatives across the state. We need and appreciate the efforts by MAEOE that helped and continue to help make this possible.

We have since become a Maryland Green School and have started a Green Team at our school to support this project. MAEOE and the Green School Application process provided my students with the framework to improve and lessen our schools’ environmental impacts. It is critical that you continue to support MAEOE and their efforts to strengthen environmental education and resources for schools and teachers. Our stable future depends on students having the knowledge, appreciation and realization that they can make a difference with the choices they make.

The Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Educators, MAEOE, recognizes the importance of their role as support for formal and informal environmental teachers in Maryland who have the same mission. Across the state, MD Green School Teachers have used the environment as a lens for their instruction. The cultures at these schools have shifted to improving levels of awareness, protection and recognition of the fact that even one student can make a difference and positively impact their surroundings and quality of life in their homes and communities.

Students who are a part of a MD Green School such as ours, are exposed to many practices of sustainability first hand. Being a part of the MD Green School network allows teachers to share ideas and practices that create unique opportunities for our students. Empowerment of student ideas and the implementation of successful change-making projects leads to communities of adults who are interested and willing to make changes too. Supporting MAEOE supports sustainable communities in our future. I believe in the impact of MD Green Schools and I acknowledge and want you to know that this would not be possible without MAEOE and their leadership.

Elizabeth McCook, Environmental Education, Frederick County, Maryland
elizabeth.mccook@fcps.org (301) 992-1419

SB383_FAV_Fuentes.pdf

Uploaded by: Javier Fuentes

Position: FAV

STUDENT – Javier Fuentes
Testimony SB383
Budget and Taxation Committee
Position: Support
February 8, 2022

Dear Chair Guy Guzzone, Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I Strongly urge your support of SB383 “Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant – Funding and Evaluation – Extension.”

My name is Javier Fuentes, I am a Junior at Laurel High School in Prince George’s County. I am the President of the Green Club at my school. We became a Maryland Green School in 2017 and have recertified in 2021. I have been the Green Club president with an executive team, two faculty advisors, and around 50 students who show up regularly to meetings once a week after school. During covid and online learning, we had many students attending meetings. Virtually, we participated in citizen science activities such as iNaturalist, initiated school wide engagement in environmental projects like recycling materials through art, but we know we can do more.

Transitioning out of the pandemic and into in-person learning gives me hope for what other students and I can accomplish. Seeing students happy to attend meetings to recycle across the school, and seeing them excited for the hands-on experience that they expect from the Green Club is what brings me here in support of extended funding for MAEOE so that we can have more of these hands-on experiences.

Supporting this bill means that student activities like field trips, activities that not only boost student morale but also improve students' environmental knowledge, would happen across Maryland.

The Green Club and Maryland Green Schools have connected me to other schools in Prince George’s County and now across the state. Youth voice is important for the future of the environment, and the MAEOE youth council is giving me another outlet to bond with my peers and to be part of discussions, strategy, and planning, and implementation of environmental work in our state.

My community, friends, family, and MAEOE have all given me the courage to lead.

Our future needs more students to be involved at school and in the community. The work that MAEOE is doing helps students like me have the tools equipped to build a sustainable life for ourselves and others. This is why I support and urge a favorable report on this bill.

Javier Fuentes, Junior, Laurel High School

SB383_MDSierraClub_fav 8Feb2022.pdf

Uploaded by: Josh Tulkin

Position: FAV



P.O. Box 278
Riverdale, MD 20738

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Testimony on: SB 383 “Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation – Extension”

Position: Support

Hearing Date: February 8th, 2022

The Maryland Chapter of the Sierra Club strongly supports SB 0383, which would extend through fiscal year 2028 current requirements that the Governor include funding in the State budget for increasing the number of green schools in the State. This bill would also extend through 2029 the annual evaluations that study how funds appropriated under this bill impact the number of green schools in Maryland and evaluate if the number of schools is increasing.

The Green Schools Program, founded in 1999, provides opportunities for Maryland students of all grades to participate in hands-on activities related to water and energy conservation, pollution prevention, habitat restoration, community science, the impacts of the environment on public health, and other environmental literacy issues. These activities increase student awareness of how their individual actions affect their communities and environment. Lessons are reinforced by the practical application of knowledge in their schools and homes. Another benefit is that Maryland Green Schools initiatives can enhance applications for national Green Ribbon School and Eco-Schools USA Certification. Finally, the Green Schools Program fully supports Maryland State Department of Education graduation requirements and standards.

At this moment, 664 Maryland Green Schools constitute only 33% of the over 2,000 public and private schools in the state. Ensuring a steady funding amount is vital to increasing the number of Maryland Green Schools. We urge a favorable report.

Sarah Peters
Volunteer, Natural Places Committee
Petesa05@gmail.com

Josh Tulkin
Chapter Director
Josh.Tulkin@MDSierra.org

SB 383_CBF SUPPORT.pdf

Uploaded by: Joshua Kurtz

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education

Senate Bill 383

Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation - Extension

Date: February 8, 2022

Position: **Support**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

From: Josh Kurtz, MD Executive Director

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 383, which extends funding for the Green Schools Program until 2028. The program provides K-12 students with educational opportunities that empower them to make changes to reduce environmental impact, practice environmental stewardship, encourage sustainability, increase awareness of how our relationship with the environment ultimately impacts public health and society and fosters environmental literacy.

Education of our next generation is critical to restoring the Bay and protecting it in the future.

A core tenant of the CBF's work is educating students about the Bay and the broader environment through hands on learning experiences. The Maryland Green Schools Program has a similar mission. The program is focused on teaching students how they can improve the environment, protect the Bay, and tackle climate change. The program was created in alignment with the Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 2014 and provides enriching, hands-on, inquiry-based learning for Maryland students across the state.

The program is extremely popular and the extension of the funding will allow for more students to be able to access the program.

Currently 42% of all public schools in Maryland hold green schools' status and nearly 430,000 Maryland students are served by the program¹. Students in these schools are given the opportunity to learn about and participate in activities including recycling, restoring natural habitats, and reducing energy consumption. The lessons learned by the students are one that could be applied at home and in their own communities. The current program has a goal of reaching 50% of all schools across the state. The extension of the program will provide additional resources to reaching that goal.

CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 383. For more information, please contact Robin Jessica Clark, Maryland Staff Attorney, at rclark@cbf.org and 443.995.8753.

¹ Maryland Green Schools Progress Evaluation, Executive Summary

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hVw8JyrrfD4mpGhCOCdTMVs-CdvuyCB-/view>

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403
Phone (410) 268-8816 • Fax (410) 280-3513

SB383 Sponsor Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Nancy King

Position: FAV

NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 120
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686
Fax 301-858-3670 · 410-841-3670
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Senate Bill 383 – Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant –
Funding and Evaluation – Extension**

February 8, 2022

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee:

The Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), works to transform schools and communities by encouraging, engaging and empowering schools and communities to understand, responsibly use and promote the natural world. MAEOE's signature program, Maryland Green Schools is nationally recognized as having significant impact with students and schools. The program provides educational opportunities for preK-12 schools that increase awareness and understanding of environmental interrelationships and promote responsible environmental stewardship practices.

The Maryland Green Schools program allows schools to demonstrate that they incorporate local environmental issue instruction for each grade. Teacher professional learning is required and documented to verify the types of programs being endorsed. Students become involved in and lead sustainable practices.

The Green Schools Act supports professional development, creates resources to help students get access to environmentally focused activities, supports school projects that incorporate environmental best practices and increases environmental educators in the state. In 2019 the legislature passed the Maryland Green Schools Act to expand the Maryland Green Schools program with a goal of having 50% of all Maryland schools as Green Schools by 2025.

The grant was for five fiscal years beginning with FY2021. Unfortunately, many of the programs planned for FY 2021 and 2022 were not able to be implemented due to COVID. Senate Bill 383 will simply extend the grant for two years so the intent of the original bill can be realized.

It is critical that our children have a solid understanding of their role as environmental stewards and this program, with state funding, has the ability to reach a vast number of our pre-K through 12 students and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 383.

SB 383 MD Assoc of Env & Outdoor Educ Grant Fundin

Uploaded by: Barbara Wilkins

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 383 Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant - Funding and Evaluation (King)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 8, 2022

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 121 extends an existing mandated appropriation for the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education Grant in the Maryland State Department of Education from FY 2026 to FY 2028; and increases the FY 2023 appropriation amount from \$272,100 to \$280,850 in FY 2026 and FY 2027; and decreases the appropriation to \$216,600 in FY 2028. The grant is to increase the number of green schools.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the cumulative increase of \$561,100 in the mandated appropriation. The FY 2023 Budget contains the \$272,100 mandated appropriation amount.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which will require spending allocations for FY 2024 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2022.

Changes to the Maryland Constitution in 2020 provide the General Assembly with additional budgetary authority, beginning in the 2023 Session, to realign total spending by increasing and adding items to appropriations in the budget submitted by the Governor. The legislature's new budgetary power diminishes, if not negates, the need for mandated appropriation bills.

Fully funding the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan) will require fiscal discipline in the years ahead, if the State is to maintain the current projected structural budget surpluses. Mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of this education funding priority and the Governor's tax relief proposals.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19. High rates of inflation and workforce shortages may be short lived or persist, thereby impacting the Maryland economy. While current budget forecasts project structural surpluses, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability. The Department continues to urge the General Assembly to focus on maintaining the structural budget surplus.

For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at (410) 260-6371 or barbara.wilkins1@maryland.gov

45 Calvert Street · Annapolis, MD 21401-1907

Tel: 410-260-7041 · Fax: 410-974-2585 · Toll Free: 1-800-705-3493 · TTY Users: Call via Maryland Relay

<http://dbm.maryland.gov>