



*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

**SB 841 - Morgan State University - Carnegie Classification - Doctoral University With Very High Research Activity**

Testimony of Senate President Bill Ferguson

On March 2, 2022

Before the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

**Why This Bill Matters:**

Morgan State University achieved doctoral research status (R3, moderate research activity) in 2006 and was elevated to R2 (high research activity) in 2018. The Carnegie R1, or “Tier One,” designation is synonymous with both academic and research excellence. The designation places UTSA among the nation’s top public and private research universities, amplifying its statewide and national exposure to attract and recruit world-class faculty and top students.

President Wilson’s leadership has been invaluable at Morgan State University, and he has set the auspicious goal of reaching R1 (very high research status) in Morgan’s 10-year strategic plan. The focus of their research and creative activity will be on improving the challenges in the City of Baltimore with respect to crime, education, health care, economic development, and other societal problems that disparately impact the Baltimore region.

**What This Bill Does:**

At the request of Morgan State University and President Wilson, Senate Bill 841 will formally designate the Maryland General Assembly’s intent for Morgan State University to reach Carnegie R1. In addition to its current priorities, Morgan would have to dedicate sustained annual research expenditures of between \$50 and \$75 million, and conduct research that addresses issues disproportionately impacting communities of color.

**Why You Should Vote For This Bill:**

The University of Maryland College Park, UMBC, and Johns Hopkins University are the only three higher education institutions in the State to have attained Carnegie R1 research status. Senate Bill 841 will reinforce Morgan’s role as Maryland’s Preeminent Public Urban Research University.

The impact of reaching R1 classification is immediate and direct for institutions. It improves the degree value for former and current students, increases choices for students aiming to pursue graduate study at other peer university programs, creates stronger professional affiliations for faculty, and elevates

our stature in the national research community. At the same time, the designation would advance the knowledge pipeline of Baltimore City and the entire State of Maryland by attracting additional talented faculty, who in turn further our local workforce.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 841 and I urge the committee to move this bill with a favorable report.