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HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Chair, Education and Economic
Development

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families

House Chair

Baltimore City Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB 428: University System of Maryland - Board of Regents -
Student Member Grant**

Bill Hearing: February 14, 2023 at 1:00pm, Appropriations Committee

**Chairman Ben Barnes and Vice Chair Mark S. Chang and esteemed members of the
Appropriation Committee,**

The Board of Regents has 21-members, and a majority of the regents are appointed by government officials such as the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house. The exception from being appointed are two students that are a part of the University System of Maryland and members of the board. One of the following rules Section 12-102(h) is that each member of the Board serves without compensation and the only method of “payment” is reimbursements that follow in line with Maryland’s travel regulations.

Being a student is hard enough as it is and being a part of the Board takes up time that could be used to study or get a part-time job that would help pay for school but balancing these two positions can be difficult. This bill would help take the burden off of being a student along with the cost and allow them to work to the best of their abilities.

The goal is offering tuition aid in the first year instead of second year. In the last couple of decades, the cost of higher education has been steadily increasing. The bill that is currently in place covers the second year of the student's tuition via waiver, but not the first year. Board members aside from the students have five-year terms unlike the students who have two years. Since board members are not getting paid for their time while serving. Yet these students are paying into the system while being stakeholders that are directly affected by changes.

The students are working and maintaining the University System of Maryland which is a service to the community and the state. We must support our future leaders of Maryland and provide a stable foundation for the next generation of student board members.

I urge you to vote favorably on HB0428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Delegate Stephanie M. Smith