

**SB918\_MACC\_BPhillips\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brad Phillips

Position: FAV

---

**SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**Testimony by**  
**Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director**  
**March 15, 2023**

**SB918 – Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program - Alterations**

**POSITION: Support**

---

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, thanks Senator King for her sponsorship of SB918 to expand the Facilities Renewal Grant to all 16 community colleges and help ensure equitable funding across our campuses.

The current Facilities Renewal Grant program only allows half of the colleges to receive funding every other year. Due to the percentage tie to the CIP of the Construction Grant Program, there are annual fluctuations which has led to an inequal distributions of funds year over year. SB918 is crucial in addressing these issues and ensuring that all community colleges in Maryland have access to the necessary funding to maintain safe and healthy learning environments for our students.

This bill will provide an more equity within the facilities renewal fund and will also address a structural problem within the original language of the legislation that established the grant program. The original language caped the grant to a maximum of \$500,000, which has left funding behind as the Department of Legislative Services analysis has listed as an area that needs to be resolved within the grant. This bill will allow for growth and equity for community colleges.

Our facilities renewal backlog is now over \$115 million in need and this program has aided our colleges in removing differed maintenance from the Community College Capital Construction Grant Program, allowing for colleges to maintain state-of-the-art facilities and allow colleges to renovate and build new facilities at the same time. These projects are inclusive of roof repairs, window, door and boiler replacements and even electrical upgrades. Given the age of our buildings, continued deferral can lead to increased costs in the long run. Failure to repair these, or similar systems can also lead to disastrous environmental and health issues. In addition, completing these repairs at the expense of instructional funding is not a sustainable solution, and our colleges have vigilantly avoided increasing tuition to pay for them.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and all your efforts to meet the needs of the students we serve. MACC asks the Committee to give SB918 a favorable report.

# **SB0918 -- Higher Education - Community College Fac**

Uploaded by: Brian Levine

Position: FAV



**Senate Bill 918 -- *Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations*  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
March 15, 2023  
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 918-- *Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program – Alterations*.

Senate Bill 918 increases the number of grants from eight to 16 that the Maryland Higher Education Commission may make under the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program in each fiscal year. The bill further requires that in Fiscal Year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall annually appropriate an amount equal to 10% of the appropriation to the Community College Construction Grant program.

Community colleges play an integral role in Maryland's economy. These institutions address workforce and labor market issues through training, skills development, and providing a gateway to four-year colleges and universities. MCCC members have identified the attraction and retention of quality employees as their number one issue. Community colleges are a key to unlock a well-prepared and high-quality workforce that meets the needs of employers.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber supports Senate Bill 918 and requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 | [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com)*

**SB0918-BT\_MACo\_SUP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Brianna January

Position: FAV



## Senate Bill 918

### *Higher Education - Community College Facilities Renewal Grant Program - Alterations*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: March 15, 2023

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 918. This bill would appropriately update the Community College Construction Program and its State funding to allow all of Maryland's community colleges to annually access critical funding for new construction and capital maintenance.

Under the current system, the State appropriates \$8 million annually for the Community College Construction Program. For years, community colleges have taken turns accessing these funds, with eight of the 16 applying for and receiving \$1 million grants one year and the other eight doing so the following year. This has created equity among the community colleges, but in doing so, critical capital projects go unfunded – and incomplete – every year. Under SB 918, the State appropriation would double to \$16 million annually, allowing all 16 community colleges to apply for a receive significant grant funding every year.

The increased grant funding comes as community colleges need it more than ever to help Maryland communities rebuild after the COVID-19 pandemic. Community colleges provide instruction in several critical workforce shortage areas such as allied health, construction trades, business, and several other critical shortage fields. Research continues to demonstrate Maryland is underproducing in the skills needed by employers in these categories.

By supporting the capital needs of our community colleges, SB 918 will help them expand these critical programs and serve a greater number of students and, in-turn, help produce more graduates and qualified professionals in these in-demand fields.

Furthermore, Maryland's community colleges serve some of the state's most vulnerable student populations, including a large portion of the state's Pell Grant recipients. Counties are proud to support community colleges and the students that they serve and welcome deeper State partnership to prioritize these critical institutions as well. SB 918 is a strong step toward doing so and for these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 881 and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.

# **SB918 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 918 – Higher Education - Community Colleges Facilities Renewal Grant  
Program – Alterations**

March 15, 2023

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

In 2018 the legislature established the Community College Facilities Renewal Grant (CCFRG) program within the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to provide grants for improvements, repairs, and deferred maintenance projects at community colleges, including Baltimore City Community College (BCCC). Grants provided by the program are in addition to and do not supplant funds provided by the Community College Construction Grant program. The Governor must appropriate 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant program to the CCFRG program. Under CCFRG, MHEC may make up to eight grants in each fiscal year and no community college can receive more than \$500,000 in a fiscal year, and no community college can receive a grant in consecutive years.

Senate Bill 918 will increase the appropriation from 5% of the annual appropriation for the Community College Construction Grant to 10%. The bill will further allow MHEC to make up to sixteen grants in each fiscal year.

We continue to ask our Community Colleges to try to hold the line on tuitions, but without the resources to fund necessary repairs and improvements, increased tuition may be their only recourse. Delays in these repairs will ultimately result in higher repair costs and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 918 so our Community Colleges can continue to provide a high-quality higher education in an environment that support students' safety and learning.