

MARYLAND FAIR FUNDING COALITION

Contact: Trap Jervey, trap@marylandrise.org

TESTIMONY ON SB 659 Comptroller - Modernization of State Financial Systems - Report

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
March 9, 2023

SUPPORT

The Maryland Fair Funding Coalition is a group of more than a dozen organizations across the state that have come together to ensure that the state has the resources it needs to make significant new investments in education funding. Great public schools are part of the foundation of a thriving community. They reflect our understanding that every child has something to contribute and embody our commitment to providing the support children need to learn and thrive. Strong schools build the groundwork for our future prosperity by creating tomorrow's skilled workforce and making Maryland an attractive place for families and businesses.

The Coalition supports proposals focused on making Maryland's tax code fairer. Right now, Maryland has one of the most outdated accounting systems in the country. As a result, necessary services to vendors, businesses, and nonprofits have been lacking. Replacing this system is a much-needed step toward modernizing our state government infrastructure and ensuring the Controller's office has all the resources to function effectively.

This bill directs the Comptroller to lead a multi-agency effort to prepare for the timely and effective replacement of the current financial systems, determine the needs of all involved agencies, and oversee implementation of the new system. Along with the Comptroller, this process will include the State Treasurer's office, the Department of Budget and Management, The Department of Information Technology, and The Department of General Services.

This process will take both time and money, and it will require the full support of all branches of government for its success. As such, the General Assembly should pass this bill to show that they are committed to the project, and to ensure implementation begins as soon as possible.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 659