

SB142_USM_FAV.pdf

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SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 142

University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Student Member Grant

February 8, 2023

Favorable

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the committee thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 142. The bill authorizes the University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents to award a grant consisting of private donor funds to a student member of the board during the first year of a two-year term. This is in addition to the tuition waiver the board may already grant in a student member's second year. The grant may not exceed the cost of the tuition. In 2020, the General Assembly passed [legislation](#) that authorizes the USM Board of Regents (BOR) to grant a tuition exemption to a student member in the second year of the term.

The USM Board of Regents, including two student regents, governs the system. Appointed by the governor, president of the senate, and the speaker of the house, the regents oversee the system's academic, administrative, and financial operations; formulate policy; and appoint the USM chancellor and the presidents of the system's 12 institutions. With the exception of the student members, each regent is appointed for a term of five years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Student regents are appointed for a two-year term and may be reappointed. Regents serve on the board without compensation.

Regents are selected through a process that ensures that the most qualified, experienced, and committed candidates, representing a diverse set of backgrounds, are chosen for the position. Regents must share a personal or professional interest in the USM and possess the necessary qualifications needed to strengthen the board; demonstrate a willingness to devote adequate time and effort to the office; and display thoughtfulness and in working with others.

The intent of Senate Bill 142 is to acknowledge further the sacrifices made by USM students who volunteer for service as a regent. Tuition relief will help ensure that students who want to serve are not dissuaded by the large commitment that makes working and accepting other opportunities difficult if not impossible. These grants will provide relief as well as incentive for students interested in this time-consuming but substantive and important role

We are pleased to support Senate Bill 142 and urge a favorable report.



About the University System of Maryland

The University System of Maryland (USM)—one system made up of twelve institutions, three regional centers, and a central office—awards eight out of every ten bachelor’s degrees in the State of Maryland. The USM is governed by a Board of Regents, comprised of twenty-one members from diverse professional and personal backgrounds. The chancellor, Dr. Jay Perman, oversees and manages the operations of USM. However, each constituent institution is run by its own president who has authority over that university. Each of USM’s 12 institutions has a distinct and unique approach to the mission of educating students and promoting the economic, intellectual, and cultural growth of its surrounding community. These institutions are located throughout the state, from western Maryland to the Eastern Shore, with the flagship campus in the Washington suburbs. The USM includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities, comprehensive institutions, research universities, and the country’s largest public online institution.

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Elfreth_SB142_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Sarah Elfreth

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Program Open Space/Agricultural
Land Preservation

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

Testimony in Favor of SB0142
University System of Maryland - Board of Regents - Student Member Grant

Chairman Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and member of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 142 to authorize the University System of Maryland (USM) to provide student members of the Board of Regents a grant in their first year of service on the Board in lieu of the tuition waiver currently authorized.

Over the past few years, the General Assembly and this Committee have taken actions to adjust the Board of Regents and our student members of the Board. In 2019 we altered the composition of the Board to include two rather than one student members (SB719) and then during the 2020 session we passed legislation to allow the Board to provide those student members of the Board with a tuition waiver in light of the considerable time and energy required for Board service (SB1022).

This legislation will take further action as the USM has a private donor that is interested in providing a grant to student members of the Board during their service. Without the passage of this legislation, the System would not be able to allow for the use of such a grant.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 142.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Elfreth".

Sarah Elfreth