

Senate Bill 639
Historic St. Mary's City Commission Reform Act of 2023
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 7, 2023

Favorable with Amendments

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 639. St. Mary's College was founded by the Legislature in 1840 as a living monument to Maryland's first capital. In 1997, House Bill 597 provided the foundation for an affiliation between St. Mary's College of Maryland (College) and the Historic St. Mary's City Commission (Commission). This affiliation has resulted in enhanced programming and provided opportunities for efficiencies in operations. Since then, the College and the Commission have developed a variety of successful joint educational programs, such as the Center for the Study of Democracy and the College's Museum Studies minor, and have worked together to plan and share both land and facilities.

In addition, as made possible by the 1997 legislation, the Commission has contracted with the College for a variety of administrative and operational services including personnel, procurement, accounting, information technology, and public safety. The College, in general, supports the measures contained in Senate Bill 639 that are intended to strengthen policies and procedures related to these administrative services. The College offers an amendment to specifically clarify that when the Commission obtains services from the College under an agreement, those services will be provided in accordance with the College's existing policies and procedures. This amendment, which is consistent with the provisions in the 1997 legislation, would allow the College to continue providing these services efficiently.

Our proposed amendment:

Insert the following on page 6:

- (9) TO DEVELOP AND PUBLISH WRITTEN POLICIES REGARDING THE COMMISSION'S OPERATING PROCEDURES, INCLUDING POLICIES ON:
- (I) PROCUREMENT;
 - (II) HUMAN RESOURCES;
 - (III) PAYROLL;
 - (IV) CASH MANAGEMENT;
 - (V) FLEET MANAGEMENT; AND
 - (VI) PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING RENTAL TENANT WAITING LISTS;

(10) TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COMMISSION OBTAINS SERVICES UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND, THE SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION WILL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ST. MARY'S COLLEGE'S POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.

~~(10)~~ (11) TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN AND TO UPDATE THE PLAN AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 3 YEARS;

In addition to the above, the College believes that Senate Bill 639 could be clarified regarding the renewal of service agreements between the Commission and the College and proposes the following amendment:

Insert the following on page 7:

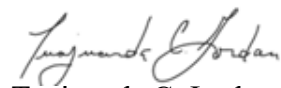
(B) AN OPERATING AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BY THE COMMISSION WITH ANOTHER UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OR AN AFFILIATED NONPROFIT SHALL BE:

- (1) EXECUTED IN WRITING;
- (2) APPROVED FOR FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL;
- (3) REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION ANNUALLY; AND
- (4) ENACTED FOR A TERM NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS, WHICH MAY BE RENEWED FOR ADDITIONAL 3 YEAR TERMS, WITHOUT LIMIT.

The proposed amendments to Senate Bill 639 will clarify how the College can continue to support the Commission effectively.

The College values its affiliation with the Commission and looks forward to continuing our collaborative work to provide educational programming related to the historical significance and archaeological value of Maryland's First Capital.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
President

The
**NATIONAL
PUBLIC
HONORS**
College

