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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 6, 2024

HB327 - Anne Arundel County - Board of Community College Trustees - Membership Alterations and Appointment Requirements

Chairman, Vice Chair, and members of the Appropriations Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 327.

The boards of Maryland's community colleges play vital roles in leading our invaluable educational institutions. At Anne Arundel Community College, the Board of Trustees engages in critical work to support the college and provide accessible education to all residents of the county. However, in recent years, as the community college has grown the board has become overburdened by the amount of work that must be accomplished on behalf of the institution. If not addressed, these impediments will lead to backlogs in AACC's services. HB327 will provide additional assistance to the board to ensure that they have the resources to meet their duties.

HB327 will increase the number of seats on the board of trustees of Anne Arundel Community College from eight to ten. Expanding the board will relieve pressure on the board's decision making process and augment the efficiency of its work. Additionally, HB327 takes important steps to ensure the diversity of the panel - it includes language requiring the governor's appointments to reflect the geographic and ethnic makeup of the county. Currently, there is no statutory requirement for the governor to do so. It is important that the board represent the entirety of the county's population in order to include the perspectives of every area and group that uses the college. These legislative actions will solidify the board's effectiveness and its diversity. HB327 was requested by the board, and it has been endorsed unanimously by the Anne Arundel County House Delegation, and the Senate crossfile, SB69, passed third reader on February 1st unanimously.

HB327 prepares Anne Arundel Community College for a future of serving the crucial educational needs of the county. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 327.