

BEN BARNES
Legislative District 21
Prince George's and
Anne Arundel Counties

—
Chair
Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Greetings Members of the House Appropriations Committee,

House Bill 624 - Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program - Program Administrator – Alterations transfers administrative responsibilities of the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program (NGS) from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC).

The financial acuity needed to ensure NGS is operating at the highest level is best administered by MHEC. MHEC has the expertise in distributing financial aid awards and disbursement.

HB 624 requires MHEC to guarantee the continuity of all program responsibilities and comprehensive services provided to students such as: academic planning, mentorship, and financial aid literacy, all essential components in guiding students toward successful college matriculation. To administer NGS, MHEC will continue to collaborate with MSDE, local boards of education, local superintendents and institutions of higher education.

In supporting HB 624, we are prioritizing the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program by identifying and awarding qualifying and selected students. I ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Barnes', written in a cursive style.

Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Appropriations Committee
District 21