



MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE & CIVIC INNOVATION

WES MOORE, Governor

ARUNA MILLER, Lieutenant Governor

PAUL MONTEIRO, Secretary

SARAH FLAMMANG, Deputy Secretary

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March 27, 2024

TO: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary  
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Secretary Paul Monteiro  
Department of Service and Civic Innovation

RE: Senate Bill 762- Education- Maryland Civic Excellence Program- Established-  
**Support**

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The Department of Service and Civic Innovation respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 762- Education- Maryland Civic Excellence Program- Established, as amended.

Senate Bill 762, The Maryland Civic Excellence Program, would provide a vital framework for recognizing and promoting civic education within our public schools. By establishing a voluntary program incentivizing participation, SB 762 empowers the local school systems to prioritize civic education and engagement initiatives tailored to their unique communities.

We know that service is a nonpartisan strategy that helps bring people together across lines of difference. By promoting these values to young people, they will be able to develop and incorporate them into their personal and professional lives as they grow into future community leaders. By awarding the Seal of Civic Excellence to qualifying students and naming the Centers of Civic Excellence to exemplary schools, SB 762 creates a tangible incentive for students and schools to engage in civic learning and service actively.

In addition, the criteria outlined in SB 762 ensure that participation in the program is meaningful and impactful. From requiring students to demonstrate proficiency in key social studies courses to engaging in service learning projects focused on community and civic engagement, the program sets high standards that will undoubtedly contribute to the development of informed, engaged citizens.

The Department of Service and Civic Innovation respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 762 and its vision for advancing civic education and engagement in Maryland. By investing in our students and empowering our schools to prioritize civic learning, we are laying the foundation for young Marylanders to contribute positively to their communities.

Yours in Service,  
Secretary Paul Monteiro