

Sen. Ellis Written Testimony - SB0126.pdf

Uploaded by: Arthur Ellis

Position: FAV

ARTHUR ELLIS, CPA
Legislative District 28
Charles County

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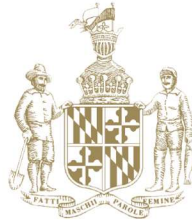
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Sponsor Written Testimony: Favorable
Senate Bill 126: Charles County – Summer Academy for Mathematics and Service Pilot Program –
Establishment

February 16, 2026

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

I am writing to underscore my support for Senate Bill 126, which establishes a targeted, evidence-based summer mathematics intervention program in partnership with the Maryland Department of Labor and the Charles County Public Schools. This pilot program is designed to support high school students who have not yet demonstrated proficiency in Algebra or Geometry—two foundational courses essential for academic success, graduation readiness, and workforce preparedness. In Charles County, Maryland, as in many jurisdictions across our state, learning loss—exacerbated by pandemic-related disruptions—has had measurable impacts on student achievement, particularly in mathematics. Students who do not achieve proficiency in mathematics face increased barriers to graduation, postsecondary education, and entry into high-demand, high-wage careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Equally important, Senate Bill 126 prioritizes transparency and accountability. The Department will establish performance indicators to evaluate program effectiveness.

Beyond academic outcomes, this program also contributes to workforce development goals. Senate Bill 126 is a fiscally responsible investment. It prioritizes available funding, directs resources based on student need, and ensures funds are used for direct instructional support, teacher stipends, technology, program evaluation and data collection. Overall, this legislation represents a thoughtful, accountable, and student-centered approach to addressing learning loss, improving academic outcomes, and strengthening Maryland's future workforce.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arthur Ellis".

Arthur Ellis, CPA

Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard Cross

Position: FAV

Good afternoon, Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Dr. Richard A. Cross, an educator and mentor with over 13 years of experience working with students who have been historically underserved.

SB0126 matters because it recognizes a truth many educators see daily: students struggling in math are often not lacking intelligence; they are lacking confidence, connection, and belief in themselves.

This Summer Academy is powerful because it integrates academic instruction with mentorship and service, addressing both skill and mindset. Summer is the most strategic time to intervene, preventing learning loss while rebuilding student engagement.

As an Education Practitioner, I always seek to support programs that are delivered with integrity, accountability, and measurable outcomes, and with a forward-thinking lens that Maryland can scale statewide.

This pilot represents more than remediation; it represents restoration of confidence, purpose, and academic direction. I strongly support SB0126 and appreciate your consideration.

Dr. Richard A Cross

Founder: Going Beyond Limitations

Expert in Mentorship | Executive Advisor | Dedicated Educator | Consultant | Author and Empowerment Speaker

LinkedIn: [Dr. Richard A. Cross](#)

POSITIVELY SHAPING THE FUTURE

SB126_MDLabor_INFO

Uploaded by: Marissa Yancone

Position: INFO

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 126

TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor)
DATE: February 18, 2026
BILL: Charles County - Summer Academy for Mathematics and Service Pilot Program - Establishment

MD LABOR POSITION: INFORMATION

SB126 would require the Maryland Department of Labor (MD Labor) to partner with the Charles County Public School System to establish a Summer Academy for Mathematics and Service Summer Pilot Program (“Pilot”) to assist high school students who are not meeting math educational goals.

Specifically, MD Labor would be responsible for:

1. Issuing standards for the program, including instructional hours, curriculum, and teacher qualifications;
2. Establishing performance indicators;
3. Making funds available for the program;
4. Awarding grants for the program; and
5. Reporting on the program and summarizing aggregated data based on the participants.

MD Labor’s Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning (DWDAL) would likely house this program within the Office of Adult Education & Literacy Services (AELS). **While AELS is familiar with standards and requirements for *adult* education, it does not currently oversee any K-12 programming, and furthermore, does not have any existing funding that could be used to support such a Program. The majority of AELS funding comes from the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA); federal funds cannot be used for State-level programming.**

AELS serves adult learners aged 18 and older in Maryland who do not have a High School Diploma; while staff is familiar with best educational methods and instructional requirements for this *adult* population, they are less familiar with the standards for K-12 education, and do not perform several of the duties assigned to them in the bill, including determining K-12 curriculums and teacher credentials.

SB126 requires MD Labor to “prioritize the use of available funding for the program.” MD Labor as a whole does not have any additional funding that could be allocated to this program; all funds are dedicated to existing programs. **Without any new funds provided for this Program in the State budget, MD Labor would not be able to fulfill the requirements of the bill.**

MD Labor respectfully requests the Committee consider this information as they evaluate SB126. For questions, please contact Andrew Fulginiti at Andrew.Fulginiti@maryland.gov.