

Montgomery College

2022 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Report

Overview

This is a report of the 2022 Maryland General Assembly’s legislative session. It contains information on the operating and capital budgets, legislation adopted that is significant to Montgomery College and may require actions to comply, legislation adopted that is of interest to but does not directly affect Montgomery College, and the governor’s actions concerning adopted legislation.

The general assembly meets annually for 90 days from January through April. In addition to approving the state’s operating and capital budgets each year, the members of the Senate and the House of Delegates pass bills that are then presented to the governor for signature to be enacted or vetoed. Enacted legislation takes effect on June 1, July 1, or October 1, as designated, or immediately if it is emergency legislation.

The session adjourned “Sine Die” on April 11, 2022.

Operating budget: State aid to Montgomery College increased

Montgomery College will receive \$66,059,823 in operating state aid, a significant increase of \$13,553,374 in state support.

Maryland’s community colleges finally received full implementation of the John A. Cade Funding Formula—known as the Cade formula—that is the complex state funding formula for community colleges. The Cade formula ties MC’s funding to its enrollment as well as funding provided to certain University System of Maryland four-year institutions. Thanks to legislation sponsored by Delegate Hank Heller, one of the original authors of the formula and an MC alumnus, and former Senator PJ Hogan, the tie was set at 29 percent many years ago. After years of advocacy by MC and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, as well as the longstanding support of the Montgomery County Delegation—the phase-in of the 29 percent funding tie was finally achieved this year. That along with a significant boost to the USM institutions resulted in this increase. Such an increase is not likely sustainable, however.

Capital budget: Full funding of the Leggett Building and the TP/SS library renovation

The General Assembly approved all the College’s capital requests. The College will receive \$6.8 million for the Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building. Thanks to efforts by the Montgomery County Delegation, this amount includes an additional \$2.9 million to fund unforeseen cost escalations for this important project. Additionally, the budget includes an almost \$5 million split over FY23 and FY24 to renovate the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus library, which is located in the Resource Center.

The College also received approximately \$937,000 in Facilities Renewal Grant funding.

Finally, Montgomery County sought and gained approval for a \$2 million grant preauthorized for expenditure in FY24 to build out a space for an educational center for MC's East County expansion.

Legislation significant to Montgomery College

SB 50 / HB 87 - Returned Peace Corps Volunteers – In-State Tuition

This law exempts a returned Peace Corps volunteer domiciled in Maryland from paying nonresident tuition at a Maryland public institution of higher education. A community college student who pays in-state tuition under the bill must be included as an in-state resident for computation of state aid under the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for community colleges.

This legislation, enacted with the governor's signature, takes effect on July 1, 2022.

SB 275 / HB 496 - Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment (Time to Care Act of 2022)

This law establishes a statewide family leave insurance program that includes contributions from both workers and employers. It guarantees workers 12 weeks of partially paid leave each year plus another 12 weeks for new parents. The secretary of labor, in consultation with state agencies and relevant stakeholders, must conduct a study that includes setting the employee/employer contribution rates. The employer rate must be between 25 percent to 75 percent. Contribution rates and solvency must be studied every two years. A covered individual must exhaust all paid leave provided by their employer before claiming benefits. Employers that offer paid leave comparable to or better than the law establishes would be exempt from contributing to the fund. Contributions to the fund begin in October 2023, with benefits starting in January 2025.

This legislation, vetoed by the governor and then overridden and enacted by the legislature, has various effective dates depending on the section of the legislation.

SB 528 - Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

The law makes broad changes to Maryland's approach to reducing statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to address climate change. The law, among other things, increases the statewide GHG emissions reduction requirement to 60 percent by 2031 and sets a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045. It also establishes new and alters existing energy conservation requirements for buildings. Additionally, it increases and extends specified energy efficiency and conservation program requirements and establishes requirements for the purchase of zero-emission vehicles in the state's fleet. It also establishes new entities and new special funds to support related activities.

Furthermore, the law requires the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to establish the following working groups: 1) a Just Transition Employment and Retraining group; 2) an Energy Industry Revitalization group; 3) an Energy Resilience and Efficiency group; and 4) a Solar Photovoltaic Systems Recovery, Reuse, and Recycling group. Detailed charges to each working group are included in the law. A community college representative will serve on the Just Transition Employment and Training

Working Group. Working groups report and make recommendations to the commission and the General Assembly by December 31, 2023.

In addition, the legislation alters the purpose of the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program. It requires an annual appropriation of \$1.5 million for the program to implement climate mitigation and clean energy projects. Institutions of higher education must develop course credit programs for corps members as an alternative to or in addition to a stipend.

Among other directives and initiatives, the law creates the Climate Transition and Clean Energy Hub within the administration to serve as a clearinghouse for information on advanced technology solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It requires the Maryland Department of Energy to develop energy performance standards for covered buildings, creates a Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force, and charges the Public Service Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders to implement specific policies for electric distribution system planning and improvements to promote the policy goals of the legislation.

This law, enacted without the governor's signature, takes effect on June 1, 2022. Certain provisions will be in effect until specifically designated end dates including June 30, 2024, December 31, 2029, and June 30, 2030.

HB 966 - Higher Education Academic Credit for Prior Learning Examinations – Policies and Procedures

This law, sponsored by Delegate Jared Solomon of Montgomery County, requires that by October 1, 2022, each public institution of higher education develop and implement policies and procedures for awarding academic credit for prior learning examinations. Unless the institution provides evidence that a higher score is necessary, an institution must grant academic credit for (1) a minimum score of three on Advanced Placement examinations and (2) a minimum score of 50 on College-Level Examination Program examinations. In addition, institutions must determine comparable scores for awarding academic credit for (1) the Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education Diploma Program examination and (2) the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program examination. The policies and procedures must indicate how academic credit will be awarded and include procedures related to transferring academic credits awarded from prior learning examinations to another public institution of higher education. Each public institution and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must post the policies and procedures. By December 31 of each year, each public institution must report to MHEC and the General Assembly on specified metrics.

This law, signed by the governor, takes effect on July 1, 2022.

SB 37 / HB 220 - Health Occupations – State Board of Massage Therapy Examiners – Requiring License to Practice and other Revisions

This bill, co-sponsored by Delegate Ariana Kelly of Montgomery County, phases out the registered massage practitioner credential under the Maryland Board of Massage Therapy Examiners. The bill alters licensure and curriculum requirements. Changes to the educational requirements include requiring 750 contact hours in certain approved curricula. Beginning November 1, 2026, an individual must be licensed by the board to practice massage therapy in Maryland.

This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, would take effect on October 1, 2022.

[SB 951 / HB 515 – Student Athletes – Uniform Modifications for Modesty \(inclusive Athletic Attire Act\)](#)

This bill requires numerous entities including a community college’s board of trustees to allow a student athlete to modify the student athlete's athletic or team uniform to make it more modest to conform to the requirements or preferences of the student athlete's religion or culture or the student athlete's preferences for modesty.

This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, would take effect on July 1, 2022.

[SB 518 /HB 821 - Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program](#)

This bill establishes the Career Pathways for Health Care Workers Program administered by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning in the Maryland Department of Labor. The program will provide matching grants to hospitals or related institutions that pay for training programs attended by healthcare workers to provide increased training opportunities across Maryland. A training program is provided for health care workers by a community college or historically Black college or university. The governor must include an appropriation of at least \$1 million in the annual budget bill for the program beginning in FY24.

This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, would take effect on October 1, 2022.

Legislation of interest to Montgomery College

[HB 734 / SB 912 - Higher Education – Student Financial Assistance – Alterations and Appropriation \(Maryland Student Investment Act\)](#)

This law, sponsored by Delegate Jared Solomon of Montgomery County, establishes a minimum mandated appropriation for the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program and the Edward T. Conroy and Jean B. Cryor Scholarship Fund beginning in FY24. This law requires the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to use the annual family income determined when a student is prequalified for the Guaranteed Access Grant and allows recipients of the award to maintain eligibility if they are designated as federal Pell grant eligible. The law also adds “stepson” and “stepdaughter” to those qualified. The bill also makes a technical change to the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship by requiring MHEC to define “demonstrated financial need.” Finally, it increases mandated funding for MHEC's Outreach and College Access Program from \$200,000 to \$500,000 beginning in FY24.

This law, enacted without the governor’s signature, takes effect on July 1, 2022.

[SB 4 / HB24 - Cybersecurity Scholarship Program – Alterations](#)

This law, co-sponsored by Delegate Eric Luedtke of Montgomery County, expands the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program. It allows part-time students to apply for an award under specified conditions, increasing the number of years an individual may hold an award, and expanding the positions that fulfill the program's work and teaching obligations. The Maryland State Department of Education must supply scholarship information to high school students. The work obligation for repayment of the scholarship now includes teaching in a cyber-relevant field at a community college or working in a cyber-field for a community college.

This legislation, signed by the governor, takes effect on July 1, 2022.

HB 625 / SB 440 - Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland –

Establishment. This bill, sponsored by Delegate Ariana Kelly of Montgomery County, establishes the Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland. Maryland agencies represented on the commission must jointly provide staff for the commission. By December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2023, the commission must submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly. The bill requires an advisory committee that includes a community college representative. **This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, is emergency legislation that would be effective upon enactment.**

SB 696 / HB 975 - Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment for Nurses and Nursing Workers – Program Establishment and Funding

This bill establishes the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Nurses and Nursing Workers. The Maryland Department of Health must convene a stakeholder workgroup to examine how to incentivize nursing and nursing worker students to practice in specified areas. The workgroup must submit an interim report by December 1, 2022, and a final report by December 1, 2023, including recommendations on a permanent funding structure for a new special fund.

This legislation, signed by the governor, takes effect on July 1, 2022.

SB 228 / HB 443 - Maryland Corps Program – Revisions

This law makes significant changes to the Maryland Corps Program, including allowing participants to transition to an institution of higher education or the workforce. The legislation restructures funding for the Corps. The governor must appropriate specified amounts to the Maryland Corps Program Fund. The legislation specifies that certain amounts of the provided funding be used for marketing the program at specific institutions, including community colleges.

This legislation, signed by the governor, takes effect on June 1, 2022.

HB 1030 / SB 501 - Maryland Higher Education Commission – Procedures and Operations – Alterations

This bill requires that by April 15 each year the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) must send a notification to individuals who applied for a Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Award (EEA) that indicates whether the student is a recipient of an award and, if applicable, the amount awarded to the student. Additionally, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) must record its open meetings and make them publicly available through live video streaming. MHEC must implement a unified scholarship application that will replace the current Maryland College Aid Processing System by July 1, 2025. Additionally, this bill gives MHEC authorization to access tax information, requires MHEC to update the award deadlines for the Maryland Community College Promise award based on the changes to the Rawlings EEA award, and recognizes that the General Assembly intends for MHEC to reorganize its structure to establish the OSFA as a separate independent agency in FY24.

This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, would take effect on July 1, 2022.

SB 420 / HB 719 - Employment of Minors – Opportunities for Work

This bill, sponsored by Delegate Pam Queen of Montgomery County, requires the commissioner of labor and industry to release the name, home address, and telephone number of a minor who is at

least 16 years old and has a work permit to specific organizations that have registered with the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to receive the information. The organizations include educational programs and institutions, employers and apprenticeship sponsors, and local workforce development boards that meet specified requirements. The MDL may release information relating to a minor only if the minor's parent or guardian or the minor elects to allow the sharing of the data. The MDL must adopt regulations to implement the bill, including allowing minors or their parents or guardians to opt in to share their information.

This legislation, awaiting action by the governor, would take effect on October 1, 2022.

*Prepared by Montgomery College's Office of Government Relations in collaboration with the Maryland
Association of Community Colleges
May 16, 2022*