

Montgomery College Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Report 2023



MC and the State of State

At the outset of the legislative session, the governor traditionally offers the State of State address. This year Governor Wes Moore invited MC Student Jefferson Vasquez-Reyes and Montgomery College President Jermaine F. Williams to join him at this year's address. Seated in the Senate gallery, Mr. Vasquez-Reyes was invited to rise as Governor Moore told Jefferson's story as a part of his address as evidence of the power of our mission. The speech was interrupted as huzzahs were heard across the chamber for Jefferson and Montgomery College. After the speech, Dr. Williams and Jefferson met with the governor at a reception in Government House, also known as the Governor's mansion.

Overview

This is a report of the 2023 Maryland General Assembly's legislative session. It contains information on decisions regarding the operating and capital budgets, legislation adopted that is significant to Montgomery College, may require actions to comply, and/or legislation adopted that is of interest 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 for enactment or veto. Enacted legislation takes effect on June 1, July 1, or October 1, as designated, or immediately.

This was the first session for newly elected Governor Wes Moore and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller, in addition to several new members of the Montgomery County delegation. Additionally, for the first time, the legislature's budget committees had the power to increase or move funds in the proposed operating budget as a result of changes brought about by a 2020 ballot question.

The session adjourned "Sine Die" on April 10, 2023.

Capital budget: Funding grows by more than \$10 million

The General Assembly approved numerous capital projects for the College. The governor's budget included an additional \$3 million as requested to cover escalating costs to complete the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus library located in the Resource Center. Unfortunately, the governor's budget did not include MC's request for funding to design the Germantown Student Services Center (GSSC) or the full amount needed to renovate the Rockville library. The College asked the Montgomery County delegation, our delegates and senators, to secure the needed funds for these projects, and they did. Thanks to the delegation's efforts, the General Assembly added the needed \$6.8 million for the Germantown Student Services Center to the capital budget. The delegation also secured the additional funding needed to design the Rockville Library renovation project, bringing that project's total funding to \$2.1 million. The College is grateful to the Montgomery County delegation for championing the College's capital projects. Particularly, MC appreciates the efforts of Delegates Jared Solomon and Marc Korman, as well as Senators Nancy King and Craig Zucker who serve on the capital budget committees in the General Assembly. Former Delegate Kirill Reznick, now serving in Governor Moore's administration, was also very helpful before his departure.

The College also received approximately \$1.3 million in Facilities Renewal Grant funding.

Operating budget: State aid increased by \$5 million

State aid or operating support is determined by the John A. Cade Funding Formula—known as the Cade formula—which is the complex funding formula for community colleges in which enrollment is a factor. The Cade formula ties community college funding to the funding provided to certain University System of Maryland four-year institutions. This year the formula was utilized to the fullest extent allowed by law again this year.

Montgomery College will receive \$71 million in operating State aid in FY24. While this increases the College's State support by \$5 million compared to last year, MC's enrollment decline hampered the potential for an even more significant increase.

Joint Chairman Reports: MC required to submit a report to the legislature

As part of the budget process, the House Appropriations and Senate Budget and Taxation committees adopt a [Joint Chairman's Report](#) (JCR) documenting the budgetary decisions. Additionally, the JCR requests information from agencies or institutions for specific reports to advance accountability and inform future decision-making regarding policy and budget matters. *Importantly, this year the JCR includes a specific directive for a report from Montgomery College regarding internships, as detailed below.* Furthermore, over the next year, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) will be required to submit several reports to the committees. The College must be prepared to support MACC and/or the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) by providing needed information.

The following JCR requests involve or may involve Montgomery College:

Montgomery County Community College and Public Service Internships

This report request is directed solely—see page 197— at MC and must be delivered to the General Assembly by October 15. The committees seek a better understanding of the public service internship opportunities available through MC, particularly in the State government. The committees request that the College submit a report on public service internships. It is expected that the report will include information from academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and for fall 2023 (if available) and include the number of students from the College that participated in public service internships and the placements of the interns. The requested report seeks a variety of specifics about how many students serve as interns and where they served and any partners that help advance this effort.

Lead author: Montgomery College

Due date: October 15, 2023

The following reports may require the contribution of data or information:

Community College Enrollment Decline and Use of Funding

With an overall decline in college enrollment in recent years, particularly at community colleges, the committees request a report on efforts to address enrollment declines. The report must include how the increased funding in fiscal 2021 through 2023 has been used to address workforce shortages and how the additional funding in fiscal 2024 will also be used to further these efforts.

Lead author: MACC

Contributors: N/A

Due Date: November 1, 2023

Establishment of Workgroup and Report on Programs to Foster Equitable Growth in the Cannabis Industry

Beginning in July 2023, Marylanders will be able to purchase recreational marijuana. With this new industry, there is a workforce gap due to a lack of people with the knowledge and skills to work in the cannabis industry. Moreover, communities most harmed by cannabis criminalization need access to training to participate in this emerging sector. The committees are interested in fostering the development of the cannabis industry and request the University System of Maryland (USM), Morgan State University (MSU), St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM), and MACC to establish a workgroup to

investigate the development of cannabis-focused programs, courses, and certificates to train students for the cannabis industry in areas including growing, business, processing, testing, logistics, cannabis law and policy, and research and development of therapeutics.

Lead author: TBD

Contributors: MACC, USM, MSU, SMCM

Due date: October 15, 2023

Workgroup Establishment and Report on Improving the Academic Approval Process A report must be submitted with recommendations to improve the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) academic program approval process to make it a transparent, efficient, evidence-based, and timely, and allows institutions the flexibility to respond to the needs of the students and State. The report must be submitted by a workgroup consisting of designated Senate and House members and designated representatives of specific higher education institutions, the Maryland Independent College and University Association, MACC, and the Secretary of MHEC. The report must include recommendations specified by the JCR. Note: \$500,000 of the general fund appropriation for the Cade Funding Formula has been restricted pending the submission of this report.

Lead author: MHEC

Contributors: MACC, USM, MSU, SMCM, MICUA, MHEC

Due date: December 1, 2023

Status Update on P-TECH

Lead author: Maryland State Department of Education

Due date: August 1, 2023

Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution (EFC) category

Author: MHEC

Due: June 30, 2023

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Toward the 55% completion goal

Author: MHEC

Due: December 15, 2023

Report on Advising Systems and Wrap-around Services

Author: MHEC

Due: October 1, 2023

Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards

Author: MHEC

Due: December 11, 2023

Legislation that likely requires compliance by Montgomery College

HB 923/SB 662 Appointment of Secretary and Student Financial Assistance - Accommodations at Public Institutions for Religious Beliefs

This law alters the administration of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. Community colleges will after the adoption of regulation disburse these scholarships dollars directly to eligible students. Additionally, the legislation enables part-time students to receive this scholarship and clarifies that noncredit students are also eligible. Additionally, it says that the Secretary of Higher Education is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor. It also requires each higher education institution to adopt a written policy to provide reasonable academic accommodations for students to practice sincerely held faith-based or religious beliefs. Additionally, it requires higher education institutions to provide an on-campus space to accommodate faith-based or religious practices. It alters the eligibility criteria for and the process of awards from the Delegate Howard P. Rawlings Program of Educational Excellence Award. Further, it alters the administration of the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. Regulations regarding the Promise scholarship will be written with MACC input including representatives from the colleges.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on July 1, 2023, with part two enacted on July 1, 2025.

HB 384 / SB 248 Institutions of Higher Education – Transcripts - Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to Student Debt

This law prohibits higher education institutions from refusing to provide a current or former student with a transcript or taking other punitive measures regarding a student's transcript request because the student owes a debt to the institution of higher education.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

SB 555 / HB 549 Fair Wage Act of 2023

This law increases the State minimum wage rate, accelerates the enactment of the \$15 minimum wage to go into effect January 1, 2024, and repeals the Board of Public Works' authority to temporarily suspend an increase in the minimum wage rate.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

HB 984 / SB 367 Public Employee Relations Act

This law substantially restructures the State's rules, procedures, processes, rights, and prohibitions regarding collective bargaining by public employees. It also establishes the Public Employee Relations Board to oversee collective bargaining for public employees and repeals the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 6 / SB 92 Department of General Services - Energy - Conserving Standards \(Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2023\)](#)

This law requires the Department of General Services to establish and periodically update standards for State buildings to conserve energy and minimize adverse impacts on birds. It requires the Maryland Green Building Council to include the standards in any requirements established for participation in a higher-performance building program in Maryland, defining "State building" as one acquired, constructed, or renovated by the State or one for which 50% of the money for acquisition, construction, or renovation came from State funds.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

[HB 988 / SB 828 Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications](#)

This law modifies the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program by clarifying and altering administration provisions. It establishes the employer and employee shares of the total rate of contribution and prohibits the total from exceeding 1.2% of an employee's wages.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect June 1, 2023.

Legislation significant to Montgomery College

[SB 801 / HB 1189 Economic Development - Cybersecurity - Cyber Maryland Program](#)

Thanks to the engagement of MC faculty and staff this law was enacted and establishes the Cyber Maryland Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to increase Maryland's cybersecurity workforce and build an advanced cybersecurity workforce. It is the intent of this legislation to model this effort after the successful MC-led effort to expand cyber talent known as Cybersecurity Pathways across Maryland. *It also establishes the Cyber Maryland Fund which can provide grants to community colleges to expand the workforce in this discipline* and the Cyber Maryland Board and requires MHEC to expand the Cyber Warrior Diversity Program.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 781 / SB 699 Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Equitech Growth Fund and Commission](#)

This law establishes the Equitech Growth Fund in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to support the economic competitiveness and inclusive growth of emerging and advanced industries through supporting infrastructure and a diverse workforce. *Institutions of higher education may benefit from this fund especially if the institution leverages or matches the public funds.* It establishes the Equitech Growth Commission to create a strategic plan and requires the governor to include \$5M in the annual budget.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 552 / SB 549 Economic Development - Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program and Fund \(Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023\)](#)

This law establishes the Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program in the Department of Commerce (DOC) to fund infrastructure projects in eligible technology sectors. *Institutions of higher education may receive grant/s through this program with partners from the private sector.* It also requires grantees to match funds. Additionally, it requires the DOC to report to the governor and the General Assembly on projects funded and the program's economic impact.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 982 Monitor State Employees - Programs and Scholarships for Human Services Careers and Probation Agents and State Contributions to Supplemental Retirement Plans](#)

This law changes Maryland Police Officers Scholarship Program *to provide scholarships to students intending to become police officers or probation agents which may be of assistance to MC students in the criminal justice program with aspirations for careers in law enforcement.* It further establishes the Pilot Program for Human Services Careers in certain jurisdictions other than Montgomery County in the state and alters the eligibility criteria for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program for Police Officers. It also establishes the Pilot Program for Human Services Careers Scholarship.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 987 / SB 672 Monitor Alcoholic Beverages – Use of Alcoholic Beverages for Educational Purposes](#)

This law authorizes students aged 18 to 21 years old to taste alcoholic beverages while participating in a course or program in enology, fermenting, brewing, or hospitality and tourism offered by a qualified higher education institution without criminal penalty to the student, instructor, or institution under certain circumstances.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 546 / SB551 Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023](#)

This law establishes the Maryland Corps Program, the governor's proposed service year option program for youths within three years of high school graduation or equivalent, within the Department of Service and Civic Innovation (DSCI). It provides scholarships to corps participants toward in-state vocational certificates, associate's degrees, and bachelor's degrees. It also requires DSCI to consult with higher education on the possibility of granting academic and vocational credits for program completion.

This law, approved by the governor, took effect upon enactment.

[HB 1219 / SB 893 Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023](#)

This law requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the MHEC, to establish goals for the recruitment and retention of teachers in teacher preparation programs. This includes the category of "high staff qualifications" for publicly funded eligible prekindergarten providers for certain early childhood education teachers. It alters the qualifications for the Teaching Fellows for Maryland program and establishes the Teacher Development and Retention Program as a pilot program. Community college students are eligible with the inclusion of eligible institution participants including those with at least 40% Pell-eligible students.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

Legislation of interest to Montgomery College

SB 127 Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student FAFSA Data - Reporting Requirement

This law alters a reporting requirement for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to report student Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) data to the General Assembly each year beginning in 2023 and ending in 2028. It also requires MHEC to provide access to student FAFSA data to the Center.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

HB 320 Maryland Longitudinal Data System - Definition of Student Data – Alteration

This law alters the definition of "student data" for the Maryland Longitudinal Data System to include student disability data by specific disability category.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

SB 172 / HB 229 Employment for Minors - Opportunities for Work (Job Opportunities for High School Students Act)

This law requires the Commissioner of Labor and Industry to release certain personal information of a minor who has a work permit to employers and apprenticeship sponsors, educational programs and institutions, and local workforce development boards that have requested and have registered with the Maryland Department of Labor, if a parent/legal guardian or the minor elects to share of the information.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

HB 184 / SB 79 State Personnel - Education and Transportation - Grievance Procedures

This law allows certain higher education and Maryland Department of Transportation employees to initiate a grievance procedure under certain circumstances, such as an incorrect paycheck.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

SB 959 / HB 1290 Higher Education - Maryland 529 Program - Reform

This law abolished and repealed the Maryland 529 Board and named the State Treasurer as successor to the Maryland 529 Board. It transferred responsibility to State Treasurer for administering the Maryland 529 Program, including the Maryland Prepaid College Trust, the Maryland College Investment Plan, the Maryland Broker-Dealer College Investment Plan, and the Maryland ABLE Program.

This law, approved by the governor, took effect upon enactment.

SB 343 / HB 354 Maryland Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program - Account Establishment - Procedures

This law establishes procedures regarding who may establish or receive distributions from an ABLE account in the Maryland ABLE Program for an eligible individual. It also requires the Maryland 529 Board to adopt procedures regarding the establishment and operation of an ABLE account by a person other than a designated beneficiary. Any means-tested program must take into account the ABLE assets.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect June 1, 2023.

[HB 629 / SB 886 Higher Education – Edward T. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program – Surviving Spouses of Service Members](#)

This law specifies that a surviving spouse of a member of the armed forces is eligible to apply for a scholarship under the program if the service member died, suffered a service-connected disability, or was declared to be a prisoner of war or missing in action.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect June 1, 2023.

[HB 680 Monitor Income Tax - Student Loan Debt Relief Tax Credit - Alterations](#)

This law increases the total of credits against Maryland income tax that MHEC may approve for individuals in a taxable year. It also extends the period of time an individual who claims the credit has to prove that they used the credit to repay the individual's student loan debt.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 802 / SB 620 Monitor Institutions of Higher Education – Sports Wagering Contracts - Prohibition](#)

This law prohibits higher education institutions from contracting a gaming entity, gaming entity agent, or sports marketing entity if the institution receives compensation for student participation in sports wagering.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

Legislation involving a study

[SB 104 /CH 0168 Labor and Employment - Apprenticeship 2030 Commission and Representation on the Apprenticeship and Training Council](#)

This law establishes the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission to make recommendations to expand access to apprenticeships to reduce skill shortages in high-demand occupations and provide affordable training for career pathways for residents. The Commission must report its findings to the governor and the General Assembly.

This law, approved by the governor, took effect upon enactment.

[HB 615 / CH 392 Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals - Extension of Dates](#)

This law extends the reporting and termination dates for the Workgroup on Black, Latino, Asian American Pacific Islander, and Other Underrepresented Behavioral Health Professionals.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect June 1, 2023.

[HB 418 / SB 283 Mental Health - Workforce Development - Fund Established](#)

This law establishes the Behavioral Health Workforce Investment Fund to provide reimbursement costs for educating, training, certifying, recruiting, placing, and retaining behavioral health professionals and paraprofessionals. It requires the Maryland Health Care Commission to conduct a comprehensive behavioral health workforce needs assessment by October of 2024.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 1162 Monitor Study on the Utilization of the Expedited Licensing Process for Service Members,](#)

[Veterans, and Military Spouses](#)

This law requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to conduct a study on the utilization of the expedited licensing process for service members, veterans, and military spouses for certain Maryland occupational and professional licenses. The MDL must report its recommendations to the governor and the General Assembly.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 573 / SB 263 Maryland Higher Education Commission - Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee - Establishment](#)

This law establishes the Maryland Higher Education Commission's Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee to study the provision of and access to mental health services in higher education institutions. It requires the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the governor and certain committees of the General Assembly. A MACC designee will sit on the committee.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023

Legislation involving licensures

[HB 611 / SB 960 State Board of Nursing - Sunset Extension, Licensure Exceptions, and Board Operations and Membership](#)

This law extends the continuation of the State Board of Nursing to July 1, 2025. It alters the exceptions to the registered nursing and licensed practical nurse licensure requirements. Additionally, it indicates that the Secretary of Health, rather than the Board, has authority over the Board's operations.

This law, approved by the governor, took effect upon enactment.

[SB 327 / HB 983 Hunting, Wildlife Conservation, and Outdoor Recreation - Funding, Promotion, Management, Licenses, Permits, and Stamps](#)

Among other matters related to wildlife conservation, this law authorizes a nonresident attending a Maryland college or university to purchase a resident hunting license if the person provides proof of enrollment.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 132 / SB 23 Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration Services - Journeyman License - Qualifications](#)

This law alters the qualifications for a journeyman license to provide heating, ventilation, air-conditioning, and refrigeration services. License holders must have held an apprentice license for four years, rather than three, and must have completed at least 6,000 rather than 1,875 hours of training under the direction and control of a licensed contractor.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect October 1, 2023.

[SB 145 / HB 103 State Board of Social Work Examiners - Conditional Licenses to Practice Social Work](#)

This law authorizes the State Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a conditional license to practice social work to an applicant who, except for passing a required examination, has met the appropriate education and experience requirements if the required examination was unavailable to the applicant for

a period of at least 15 business days. It also authorizes the Board to issue a temporary license to practice social work to applicants who have met certain requirements.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect October 1, 2023.

HB 454 / SB 187 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Lawful Presence and Identification Numbers

This law prohibits a health occupations board from requiring an applicant to provide proof they are lawfully present in the United States or have a Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number as a condition for licensure, certification, or registration.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

HB 260 / SB 346 Maryland Sign Language Interpreters Act

This law establishes a licensing and regulatory system for sign language interpreters under the State Board of Sign Language Interpreters in the Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Previously, sign language interpreters were not required to be licensed in Maryland.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

HB 633 / SB 258 Hospital Credentialing - Reappointment Process for Physician Staff - Modification

This law extends the credential reappointment process for physician staff from two years to three years, in accordance with accreditation body standards for hospitals

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

HB 662 / SB 443 Real Estate Brokers, Salespersons, and Associate Brokers - Continuing Education Courses - Alterations

This law alters the subject matter requirements of continuing education courses for licensees.

This law, approved by the governor, takes effect on October 1, 2023.

***Prepared by Montgomery College's Office of Government Relations in collaboration with
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