

Montgomery College Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Report 2024



*Montgomery College students and Senator Craig Zucker of Montgomery County
Student Advocacy Day 2024
Annapolis, Maryland*

Overview

This report is an overview of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly’s legislative session and its impact on the College. It contains information on decisions regarding the operating and capital budgets. It also contains information on legislation adopted that may require action by Montgomery College to comply, legislation adopted that is significant to MC, legislation adopted that is of interest but does not directly affect Montgomery College, and the Governor’s actions concerning adopted legislation. Furthermore, it contains information regarding required reports to which the College will/may need to contribute information. We are grateful to the Maryland Association of Community Colleges for their summary reports that are the foundation of this MC report.

As a reminder, 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.

The session adjourned “Sine Die” on April 8, 2024.

Capital budget: New funds for Germantown and Rockville projects

The General Assembly provided funding for two MC capital projects—the Germantown Student Services Center (GSSC) and the Rockville Library renovation. The Governor’s budget provided \$1.8 million for the GSSC, which the Legislature approved. Additionally, thanks to efforts by the Montgomery County delegation, the Legislature approved \$1 million for the Rockville Library renovation project. These funds will keep both of these projects moving forward.

Operating budget: MC receives \$70 million in State funding

The College will receive \$70 million in operating State aid in FY25, a \$1.2 million reduction compared to last year.

Significant fiscal pressures led the Governor to propose reductions for Maryland community college funding for FY25 as well as changes to the John A. Cade Funding Formula. He recommended a \$22 million reduction for FY25 State aid to Maryland's community colleges. In doing so, he specifically cited the growth in funding for community colleges paired with enrollment declines. (MC has received \$20 million in new State aid since 2021.)

More concerning, the Governor recommended permanent reductions with changes to the John A. Cade Funding Formula, which is the complex funding formula for community colleges in which enrollment is a factor. Known as the Cade formula, the law has required the State to fund community colleges at 29% of funding for public four-year institutions—meaning that for every \$1.00 the State allocates to public four-year institutions, community colleges receive 0.29 cents—keeping in mind that the community colleges also receive support from their counties in addition to tuition revenue.

Thanks to the advocacy of students, alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, community leaders, and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, we were successful in mitigating the reduction and the changes to the formula. Specifically, the Legislature restored \$10 million from the Governor's proposed reduction for Maryland's community colleges. Instead of the potential loss of \$3.2 million in funds for MC, the College will receive \$1.2 million less in Cade funds than last year. Moreover, legislators reset the Cade formula tie to 27.2%, which is greater than the Governor's proposal. However, thankfully, the Legislature agreed to call for a study, a Joint Chairman's Report, that will facilitate continued conversations on community college funding—specifically, the importance of stable, predictable funding for our colleges. This report is an important opportunity because the 90-day legislative session leaves little room for deep policy conversations that ensure an understanding of our mission, enrollment, expenditures, and students' needs.

Joint Chairman's Reports: MC must provide information 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. By the end of the next year, the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) must 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 on the eight reports listed below

The following JCR requests may require data or information from Montgomery College:

Cade Funding Formula

The committees request that the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), in consultation with the MACC, conduct a study on the Senator John A. Cade Funding Formula for the distribution of funds to community colleges. The study should examine how the Cade funding formula could be modernized and provide stability to ensure adequate funding of community colleges.

Author: DLS

Due Date: October 15, 2024

Report on Developmental Education at Community Colleges

The committees are interested in the impact that different developmental education strategies have on students' outcomes. The committees request that MACC submit a report on the developmental education approach at Maryland's community colleges. The report should include information related to, but not limited to, the use of corequisites, multiple measures placement, and math pathways. In addition to data on the methods of developmental education, the report should include how colleges work with students needing developmental education and ensure completion of necessary coursework. Recognizing that the MHEC data on developmental outcomes is not the most recent, the report should include any information on student outcomes related to recently implemented developmental education outcomes.

Author: MACC

Due Date: November 4, 2024

Report on Tuition Waivers and Supplemental Services

The committees are interested in better understanding the impact of tuition waivers and the cost of supplemental services and supports provided by Maryland's community colleges. The committees request that MHEC and the MACC jointly submit a report on tuition waivers for students and supplemental services and support provided to students with disabilities. The report should include the type of tuition waivers provided by community colleges and, for each waiver, the number of waivers provided and the cost for each college. The report should indicate if any of the tuition waivers are designated for students with disabilities. The report should also include information on the cost of the supplemental services and supports that the community colleges provide to students with disabilities by college and per student. The report should include data for FY22 through FY24 or the three most recent years of actual available data.

Author: TBD with contributors from MACC and MHEC

Due Date: October 1, 2024

Report on Impact of Credit Completion Requirement on Financial Aid Awards

Author: MHEC

Due Date: December 11, 2024

Report on the Evaluation of the MHEC Website and How to Apply for Financial Aid

Author: MHEC

Due Date: December 1, 2024

Institutional Aid, Pell Grants, and Loan Data by Expected Family Contribution

Author: MHEC

Due Date: July 1, 2024

Report on Best Practices and Annual Progress Towards 55% Completion Goal

Author: MHEC

Due Date: December 15, 2024

Report on Postsecondary Outcomes for Next Generation Scholars Senior Students

Author: MHEC

Due: December 1, 2024

Legislation that likely requires compliance by Montgomery College

[SB362 - Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2024](#)

This law alters or repeals certain required appropriations and alters the community college funding formula, among other actions.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

[HB1244 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Academic Program Approval and Institutional Mission Statements - Requirements](#)

This law requires the Maryland Department of Labor, the Department of Commerce, and the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to each have a staff member who performs duties to define, identify, and compile data regarding workforce needs in Maryland. It changes requirements for the Maryland Plan for Higher Education, and, among other items, it requires MHEC to establish a Review Process Advisory Council.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

[SB478 - Families Service Act 2024](#)

This law authorizes employers to grant a preference in hiring and promotion to spouses of eligible service members.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

[HB204 - Education - Coaches - Mental Health Training](#)

This law requires the State Department of Education to develop guidelines for public schools and the Maryland Higher Education Commission to develop guidelines for public institutions of higher education to train coaches to recognize indicators of mental illness and behavioral distress in students who participate in athletic programs in public schools and public institutions of higher education. It requires

public institutions that offer athletic programs to provide certain training to coaches.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

HB607 - Community College - Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship - Requirements

This law provides a technical fix to the Community College Promise Scholarship (Promise) application requirements. With this law, students pursuing certain continuing education programs will not be required to complete a FAFSA to apply for Promise funds. Continuing education students impacted by this legislation are those enrolling or enrolled in vocational, noncredit certificate programs, sequence of noncredit courses leading to licensure or certification, or registered apprenticeship programs. Students in these programs are ineligible for federal student aid, so filing the FAFSA is an unnecessary burden. Community colleges can determine student eligibility for Promise funding through other means.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB569 - Higher Education - Credit Eligibility and Transfer of Credits - English as a Second Language Courses - Credit for All Language Learning (CALL)

This law requires community colleges to consider a course or program for English as a Second Language or English language learner as eligible for world language or humanities credit toward an associate's degree if the course is not classified as remedial. It also requires the transferability of world language credits earned by students who transfer from community colleges to four-year higher education institutions. Further, it requires higher education institutions to review and consider the transfer of certain credits for language or humanities courses.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB367 - Community Colleges - Contraception - Access Requirements

This law requires each community college to develop and implement a plan to provide students with access to over-the-counter contraception by August 1, 2025. Each community college must submit a report to MHEC by September 1 each year. It also requires MHEC to submit a report to the General Assembly on or before October 1 annually and authorizes the Maryland Department of Health, on request, to provide certain assistance to a community college.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB567 - Public Institutions of Higher Education - Student Withdrawal Policy - Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees

This law requires each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy to authorize a student to withdraw from the institution under extenuating circumstances and to refund the student for tuition and fees paid by the student for a certain semester under certain circumstances.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB771 - Education - Initial Teacher Certification - Requirements

This law repeals the requirement for a teacher preparation program to require a student to pass a certain assessment as a graduation requirement. It alters the requirements for initial teacher certification.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB258 - Department of General Services - State Buildings and Facilities - Energy Conservation and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions

This law alters the State's goals for reducing energy consumption in State buildings. It also requires the Maryland Green Building Council to update the High-Performance Green Building Program to ensure that the program aligns with greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB571 - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program - Modifications

This law modifies provisions of law governing application, administration, and enforcement of the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program, including provisions related to the payment of contributions, the calculation of the average weekly wage, the submission of claims for benefits, and the use of contributions.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024

HB602 - Employment Discrimination - Sexual Orientation

This law alters certain provisions of law that prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sex and gender identity to also prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

HB1397 - Human Relations - Discrimination - Protected Characteristics and Reproductive Freedom

This law alters certain provisions of law prohibiting discrimination based on certain protected characteristics to include prohibitions on discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, race, and religious beliefs.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

SB525 - Labor and Employment - Equal Pay for Equal Work - Wage Range Transparency

This law requires an employer to disclose certain wage information in certain postings and to certain employees at certain times. It also requires an employer to set the wage range disclosed in good faith.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

HB465 - Workplace Fraud and Prevailing Wage - Violations - Civil Penalty and Referrals

This law increases the maximum civil penalty for the knowing failure of an employer to properly classify an individual as an employee from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

SB905 - Public Safety - Extreme Risk - Protective Orders - Review of Court Records

This law authorizes researchers affiliated with certain institutions of higher education who are conducting academic or policy research to review a court record related to a petition for an extreme risk protective order. It authorizes the Maryland Judiciary to require an institution of higher education that has researchers reviewing certain court records to enter into an agreement that provides for the storage and handling of the records.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

[HB1147 - Environment - Playground Surfacing Materials - Prohibitions](#)

This law prohibits a person from installing, supplying, selling, soliciting, or offering for sale playground surfacing materials that contain a certain concentration of lead or a component product, material, or substance to which PFAS chemicals were previously intentionally added for certain purposes.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

[HB567 - Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024](#)

This law establishes how a controller/processor may process a consumer's personal data. It authorizes a consumer to exercise certain rights regarding their personal data and requires a controller to establish a method for a consumer to exercise certain rights regarding their personal data. This law makes a violation of the Act an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice subject to enforcement and penalties under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

Legislation significant to Montgomery College

[HB1128 - Labor and Employment - Workforce Development - Talent Innovation Program and Fund](#)

Montgomery College's efforts in cybersecurity program development were central to the adoption of this legislation. This law establishes a Talent Innovation Program designed to identify and support initiatives that enhance cyber workforce skills and innovation. This law invests in cyber ranges at community colleges to provide hands-on cybersecurity skills training. It establishes the Talent Innovation Fund to finance these initiatives with an inclusion of \$2 million appropriated in the Maryland budget. MC will be able to take advantage of these funds.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

[B33 - More Opportunities for Career-Focused Students Act of 2024](#)

This law requires boards of education to consider the pursuit of certain certificates, certifications, or apprenticeships as the equivalent of pursuing postsecondary education and provide a method for a student or a student's parent or guardian to authorize the release of the student's personal information to apprenticeship sponsors and employers. It requires public high schools to inform students of employment and skills training opportunities.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

[HB75 - Higher Education - Teacher Development and Retention Program - Alterations Teacher](#)

This law ensures that community colleges are included among those institutions eligible for applicants to the Teacher Development and Retention Program. It also adjusts the participation years requirement and alters the evaluation requirements.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

[HB899 - Higher Education - Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship - Alterations](#)

This law makes the Charles W. Riley Firefighter and Ambulance and Rescue Squad Member Scholarship applicable to all programs at Maryland higher education institutions. It alters the maximum award

available, when a scholarship should be credited, and to whom initial awards should be provided.
This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect on July 1, 2024.

HB624 - Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program - Program Administrator - Alterations

This law changes the administrator of the Next Generation Scholars of Maryland Program to be the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) rather than the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). It requires the MSDE to assist MHEC with reviewing applications and the selection of nonprofit organizations to administer the program in local school systems.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

Legislation of interest to Montgomery College

SB482 - Governor's Office for Children - Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program (ENOUGH Act of 2024)

This law codifies the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) and specifies that the Special Secretary of GOC is the head of the office. The Special Secretary must establish an Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments, and Households (ENOUGH) Grant Program to advance place-based strategies targeting child poverty. The law establishes an ENOUGH Grant Fund and requires the Governor to appropriate at least \$15 million to the fund in the FY26 budget bill. The GOC must establish a database of resources by July 1, 2025 and submit a report by October 1, 2025. By December 1, 2025, the Accountability and Implementation Board must submit a recommendation to the General Assembly based on the GOC report.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB1178 - Higher Education - Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship - Repeal of Service Terminal Date

This law repeals the service terminal date required to be eligible for the Douglas J. J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship.

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

HB650 - Maryland Department of Labor - Report on Apprenticeship Mentoring Ratios

This law requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to submit a report to the General Assembly that analyzes the apprenticeship mentoring ratio for all nontraditional apprentice-able occupations in Maryland. It requires MDL to submit the report to the General Assembly by October 1, 2024, with recommendations for strategies to streamline the expansion of apprenticeship ratios for all newly registered nontraditional apprenticeship occupations for purposes of meeting the goals of the Apprenticeship 2030 Commission.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

SB718 - Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program and Advisory Committee - Establishment

This law establishes the Maryland Pathway to Nursing Pilot Program in the Maryland Higher Education Commission. It requires the Secretary of Higher Education to issue grants to at least two pilot sites that meet certain requirements by July 1, 2025. It also requires the Secretary to report to the Governor and

General Assembly by December 15 annually through 2029 after the program's implementation. Also, it establishes an advisory committee to assist the Secretary with implementation of the program

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

HB209 - Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission

The law establishes the Prison Education Delivery Reform Commission to develop recommendations relating to education and its impact on the criminal justice system. It requires the Commission to submit an interim report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 1, 2025 and a final report by January 1, 2026.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

HB597 - Growing Apprenticeships and the Public Safety Workforce (GAPS) Act

This law changes the Law Enforcement Cadet Apprenticeship Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to be the Public Safety Apprenticeship Program. It expands the program's purpose and scope to promote careers with public safety agencies. It also alters the eligibility criteria and the types of grants to be awarded.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect June 1, 2024.

HB4 - Institutions of Higher Education - Admissions Standards - Prohibition on Consideration of Legacy Preference or Donor Preference

This law prohibits institutions of higher education that receive State funds from considering a legacy preference or donor preference as an eligible criterion for admissions standards at the institution.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB967 - Higher Education - Part-Time Senatorial and Delegate Scholarships - Alterations

This law allows a part-time senatorial or delegate scholarship applicant with a documented disability to request a waiver from the Maryland Higher Education Commission for the requirement to carry at least six course hours each semester.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB937 - Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program - Established

This law establishes the Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program to provide grants to local school systems for employees who pledge to fulfill a certain service obligation as a full-time teacher in Maryland. It requires the Maryland State Department of Education to develop, implement, and administer the program. It establishes the eligibility for teacher candidates in the program.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB181 - Qualifying Nonprofit Organizations - Training and Reentry Services - Funding

This law authorizes the Governor to include an appropriation of \$1 million in the annual budget bill for FY26 through FY28 to provide operating grants to certain qualifying nonprofit organizations to provide automotive repair training for incarcerated or formerly incarcerated individuals.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB144 - Public Employee Relations Act - Alterations

This law alters certain provisions of the Public Employee Relations Act; including adding the definition of interested employee organization, altering the timing of exclusive representative access to new employees, and clarifying the process for certain investigations of unfair labor practices.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB418 - Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund - Alterations

This law expands the purpose and use of the Seed Community Development Anchor Institution Fund administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development to include providing grants and loans to anchor institutions for a certain purpose in sustainable communities.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB441 - Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program - Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award - School Nurses

This law expands the Nancy Grasmick Public School Professional Award within the Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance Repayment Program to include school nurses who are licensed as registered nurses, provide health services in public schools, and are employed by a county school system or a local health department to provide health services through an agreement with a county board.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB457 - Maryland Technology Development Corporation - Equitech Growth Fund - Alterations

This law specifies certain authorized uses of the Equitech Growth Fund in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

HB92 - Resources and Education for All Prisons (REAP) Act

This law requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell Grants for higher education. It requires the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL) to set goals for the number of incarcerated individuals in certain education programs. It establishes tracking systems for the number of incarcerated individuals and their progress in education programs. It also requires MDL to forward certain data to the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB816 - Economic Development - Cyber Maryland Fund and Program - Alterations

This law requires the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) to administer the Cyber Maryland Fund (CMF). It requires the MTDC to adopt standards for awarding grants and requires the Governor to include an annual appropriation of \$250,000 for the CMF to be used for talent pipeline management.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB500 - Education - Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund - Alterations

This law alters the qualifications for an award from the Child Care Career and Professional Development Fund to include a service obligation to work in an approved child care setting for at least 20 hours per

week. It also requires award recipients who do not perform the service obligation to repay award funding except under certain circumstances.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect July 1, 2024.

SB516 - Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission

This law establishes the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission (MATC) in the Department of Commerce to promote innovation space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities, including the integration of space, aeronautics, and aviation industries into Maryland's economy. It requires MATC to develop a strategic plan and designate aerospace and technology zones in Maryland. MATC must submit a report by October 1 each year.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

HB634 - Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center - Student Information - U.S. Census Bureau

This law authorizes the Governing Board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center to authorize the Center to send student information to the United States Census Bureau.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

SB109 - State Employees - Parental Bereavement Leave

This law entitles certain State employees to use up to 10 days of parental bereavement leave with pay within 60 days after the death of the employee's child. It also entitles certain State employees to use up to 60 days of parental bereavement leave with pay within 60 days after the employee experiences a stillbirth or the death of the employee's infant. It prohibits certain State entities from requiring employees entitled to parental bereavement leave under the Act to use any other paid leave available to the employee.

This law, approved by the Governor, takes effect October 1, 2024.

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

May 10, 2024

UPDATED June 12, 2024