ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**

James R. Guy, President
Eric Colvin, Commissioner
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner
Todd B. Morgan, Commissioner
John E. O'Connor, Commissioner

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Matthew Morgan
Maryland House of Delegates
310 House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

      RE: St. Mary's County – College of Southern Maryland – Local Budget Process
               Modifications – as amended by the College of Southern Maryland
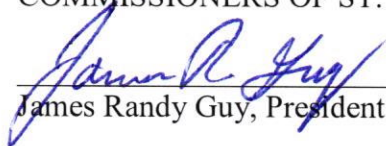
Dear Chairman Morgan,

    The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support the amended request from the College of Southern Maryland to amend §16-610 of the *Education Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland* regarding Local Budget Process Modifications as attached in the redline version. Please note St. Mary's County offered one additional amendment noted in yellow.

    We appreciate the introduction of this legislation and believe this legislation will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the session.

            Sincerely,

            COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

            James Randy Guy, President

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey
        Delegate Gerald Clark
        Delegate Brian Crosby
        Commissioner Eric Colvin
        Commissioner Michael Hewitt
        Commissioner Todd Morgan
        Commissioner John O'Connor
        Dr. Rebecca Bridgett, County Administrator
        David Weiskopf, County Attorney
        Maureen Murphy, College of Southern Maryland

MD Code, Education, § 16-610

§ 16-610. Reporting and budget requirements

In general

(a) Each year the Board of Trustees and the president of the College shall prepare and submit to the county commissioners:
   (1) An annual report;
   (2) An operating budget;
   (3) A capital budget; and
   (4) If required, a long-term capital improvement program.

Operating budget requirements

(b) The operating budget shall show:
   (1) All revenues estimated for the next fiscal year classified by funds and sources of income;
   (2) All expenditures requested, including the major functions listed under § 16-304(b) of this title ; and

   (3) Any other information or supporting data required by the county commissioners.

Review and approval by county commissioners

(c)(1) The county commissioners in each county shall review and approve the budget allocation request to its county and may reduce it~~of College~~.

   ~~(2)~~ (2)~~Except as provided in (3) of this subsection~~ Each county's total fiscal year operating fund appropriation to ~~the budget of the College shall meet the requirements of §§16-305 in this title; and each County's contribution~~ the College shall not be less than the amount appropriated for the prior fiscal year, minus non-recurring expenses) as referenced in Section 16-305 of this title. ~~of 2020.~~

   ~~(3)   The budget allocation of the county or counties supporting the College may be reduced below the amount of the adjusted appropriation for fiscal year 2020 in the case of extreme financial distress in the county or counties supporting the college.~~

   ~~(4)~~ (3)There may ~~shall~~ be a Memorandum of Understanding, as may be amended from time to time, by and between the College and the counties supporting it, addressing the methodology for equitable funding by each of the three counties of college requests for operational and minor capital expenditure increases, and the circumstances under which county funding may be reduced below the amount calculated in subsection (2) of this paragraph. ~~outlining specific operational and capital considerations in determining the budget methodology used to arrive at the counties contribution amount.~~

   ~~(5)~~   (4)The methodology for determining budget shall be reviewed every four (4) years by the College and each county.

Submission of operating budget for informational purposes

(d) The operating budget of the College as outlined in this section shall be submitted to the Commission for informational purposes.

Printed: 23 October 2019

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