



Senate Bill 1102

Education – Blueprint for Maryland’s Future – Alterations

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means and Appropriations
Committees

Date: March 27, 2024

From: Brianna January

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 1102. As amended, this bill makes several technical and operational adjustments to the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future (“the Blueprint”). SB 1102’s adjustments to college and career readiness (CCR) and the Blueprint’s envisioning of dual enrollment programs are of particular interest to county governments.

Ahead of the 2024 legislative session, county leaders and MACo sent a letter to Governor Moore, Maryland Senate President Ferguson, and House Speaker Jones outlining ongoing concerns with implementation and offering a series of suggestions to improve the historic law and make the Blueprint work for all Marylanders. In that letter, counties outlined concerns about the Blueprint’s vision for dual enrollment and requested greater clarity about operational and funding expectations. Specifically, counties requested that the State clarify if and how school systems can cap the number of dual enrollment students and/or community college courses a student can take in one year’s period and how funding accounts for a capped scenario.

Counties believe that SB 1102 provides a pathway to do just that. The bill, as amended, phases in the Blueprint’s expansion of dual enrollment to maximize the number of students able to participate and benefit from the program. One way that it does so is by empowering the Blueprint Accountability and Implementation Board and the Maryland State Board of Education, in consultation with local school systems, to establish restrictions on dual enrollment programs. For fiscal years 2025 through 2027, the bill would allow them to limit the number and kind of courses an individual high school student can take at their community college as part of the CCR program.

SB 1102, as amended, will help school systems maximize limited resources for dual enrollment and will make dual enrollment available for a greater number of eligible high school students. For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS SB 1102** and urges a **FAVORABLE** report.