

Wes Moore Governor

Aruna Miller Lt. Governor

Cassie Motz

Sanjay Rai, Ph.D. Acting Secretary

Maryland Higher Education Commission FY 2025 Capital Budget Maryland Higher Education Commission - Capital Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

> House Appropriations Subcommittee on Capital Budget Delegate Mark S. Chang, Chair March 4, 2024

> Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Capital Budget Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair March 5, 2024

GO Bond Recommended Actions

Pg. 2 - 1. Approve all authorizations and preauthorizations for the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

MHEC Response: MHEC concurs with the recommended action.

Community College Construction Grant Program

Pg. 3 - MHEC should comment on the factors that have prevented the CCCGP from being funded at the full \$80 million annual planned funding level in recent fiscal years.

MHEC Response: One factor is that colleges have requested a smaller number of less expensive projects in the last few years. This is partially due to when colleges individually have planned to complete their projects and partially due to when they have been able to secure matching commitments from their sponsoring counties. However, based on five year capital improvement plans submitted to MHEC by the colleges, and subject to program approval and matching commitments from sponsoring counties, it is anticipated that the number and cost of projects to be requested in future years will once again increase such that the planned amounts will be required. In fact, the colleges have already submitted Part I/Part II programs for several new projects for which it is anticipated they will be requesting initial funding in the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget cycles. These programs are currently under review.

Another factor is that schedule adjustments have necessitated that funding planned for some projects be deferred to future years. For example, two ongoing projects that received authorizations in previous years are the Student Services Center Renovation/Expansion at the Community College of Baltimore County Catonsville campus and the Library Renovation project at the Montgomery College Rockville campus. Based on anticipated schedules last year, it was planned that approximately \$15 million total would be needed for these two projects in the FY 2025 budget. Based on revised schedules this year, funding for neither project was included in the FY 2025 budget because it was concluded that prior authorizations for these projects would be sufficient to continue the projects through the upcoming year. However, funds are still planned for future years to complete the projects. The planned funding levels will be necessary to complete these ongoing projects as well as to begin the newly requested projects that are anticipated.