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Maryland Higher Education Commission - Capital Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Budget Testimony

House Appropriations Subcommittee on Capital Budget
Delegate Mark S. Chang, Chair
March 3, 2025

Senate Budget and Taxation Subcommittee on Capital Budget
Senator Craig J. Zucker, Chair
March 4, 2025

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. This decrease in demand was the reason why the planned amount for fiscal 2026 was reduced to \$70 million in last year's CIP. 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 \$80 million annually will be required. Another factor is that schedule adjustments have necessitated that funding planned for projects be deferred to future years. This is the primary reason why \$9.8 million less than the planned amount is now required in fiscal 2026.