

Support with Amendments

House Appropriations Committee Capital Budget Subcommittee

[House Bill 391 Creation of a State Debt – Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2026](#)

Matt Power, President, Maryland Independent College and University Association
mpower@micua.org

March 2, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding [House Bill 391 Creation of a State Debt – Maryland Consolidated Capital Bond Loan of 2026](#). I write in *support with amendments* of three proposed capital projects at MICUA member institutions. The Governor's fiscal 2027 capital budget provides a total of \$8 million to be divided among projects at Johns Hopkins University (\$1.6 million), St. John's College (\$3.2 million), and Washington College (\$3.2 million). **MICUA respectfully requests an additional \$2.0 million, for a total of \$10.0 million, to allow these projects to move forward with their full scopes of work.** These projects have all been endorsed by the MICUA Board of Trustees, are well-aligned with the goals identified in the *2022 Maryland State Plan for Higher Education* and are directly related to the academic priorities and missions of each institution. These facilities will be designed and renovated to maximize opportunities for student and faculty collaboration and to promote and facilitate interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and research. Further, these projects will help meet or exceed the postsecondary expectations of a Maryland K-12 population that is increasingly trained to expect state-of-the-art facilities.

Collectively, these projects will leverage nearly \$47 million in private resources to increase student enrollment, address workforce needs, attract research dollars, and support a vibrant economy. During the construction phase, the projects will support 400 construction jobs.

Fiscal 2027 MICUA Capital Project Requests

Johns Hopkins University requests a \$2 million grant from the State capital grant program to repurpose approximately 30,025 gross square feet of former residence hall space, located on Peabody's historic Mount Vernon campus, to support academic growth. This modernization of critical infrastructure and upgraded facilities will help to meet the evolving demands of Peabody's expanding academic programs and enhance the student learning experience. Planned renovations will transform current on-campus residential areas into vital academic spaces, including new performance venues, additional teaching, rehearsal, and practice rooms, as well as collaborative gathering areas that promote interaction and scholarship among students and faculty. The estimated total cost of the project is \$27 million.

St. John's College requests a \$4 million State grant to support a \$12.5 million project for construction of a 12,000 gross square foot Arts and Academic Hall, the first new academic building project on the campus since the 1959 completion of Mellon Hall. The Arts and Academic Hall will create spaces for improved, accessible arts programming and general instruction space for students and faculty. The building will also help to relocate current art spaces and studios from the campus's largest academic building, Mellon Hall, and consolidate them in a coherent and more suitable space. The new building may also allow for additional offerings to the broader community, in conjunction with the Mitchell Museum, an accredited art museum, located in Mellon Hall.

Washington College requests a \$4 million State grant to support an \$18 million project for construction of The Warehime School of Global Business, Economics, and Social Impact, an approximately 13,250 gross square foot groundbreaking global business school aimed at providing a unique interdisciplinary business education. The Warehime School will integrate the College's expertise in business management, economics, world languages, international studies, and liberal arts to offer students a global approach to business education. The curriculum will focus on real-world applications, social impact, and collaborations that merge the analytical and theoretical knowledge of business with the practical realities of the global market.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the MICUA Capital Grant Program and your consideration of our fiscal 2027 request for an additional \$2.0 million. In addition, we respectfully request elimination of the grant match requirement. Elimination of the match would be a better use of State dollars, allowing MICUA institutions to access the State funds earlier in the process and reduce the administrative burden on State agencies. We sincerely appreciate our partnership with the State of Maryland and value your leadership on this issue.

TO: The Honorable Malcolm Ruff, Chair
Capital Budget Subcommittee, Appropriations

FROM: Leslie Weber
Associate Director, Maryland Government Affairs
Johns Hopkins University & Medicine

DATE: March 2, 2026

RE: HB391: MCCBL 2026: Maryland Independent College & University Association

Johns Hopkins supports **HB391: Creation of a State Debt – MCCBL of 2026...** and the projects requested by the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) capital bond program.

Within this program, Johns Hopkins seeks to renovate a former residence hall on its historic Mount. Vernon campus for academic use of the Peabody Institute.

The Peabody Institute is the conservatory of Johns Hopkins University and a cornerstone of the university's cultural and academic landscape. Founded in 1857 and integrated into Johns Hopkins in 1977, Peabody is America's first conservatory and remains a national leader in the education of musicians, dancers, and performing artists. The Institute is home to close to 800 undergraduate and graduate students from more than 30 countries and offers seven comprehensive degree and diploma programs in music and dance. Recent growth has included new programs in Hip Hop, Music for New Media, and Arts & Health, as well as major investments in financial aid and access. Peabody's influence extends across Maryland through nearly 1,000 public performances each year and its Preparatory division, the region's largest community performing arts school. As part of Johns Hopkins, Peabody develops artists who carve new paths for the performing arts in our world and serve the public good.

The continued growth of Peabody's programs, and the specialized instruction, rehearsal, and performance requirements they bring, underscores the urgent need for modern, flexible space. State support for Peabody's capital project will directly address this need, helping to ensure the Conservatory can continue to meet the evolving expectations of students and remain a national leader in arts education. This expansion reflects both the momentum and strategic direction of the Conservatory, and it directly informs the need for capital investment in modern instructional and performance facilities. The requested State

support will help enable a transformative renovation that will create the flexible, high-performance spaces required to meet the evolving needs of these programs and the students they serve.

The project will redevelop approximately 30,025 gross square feet of former residence hall space to create flexible, modern environments that align with the institution's expanding educational vision and evolving programmatic needs. Upgrades to critical infrastructure and facilities will support these efforts while elevating the students' learning experience. The renovation will transform freed-up residential areas into vital academic spaces including additional teaching, rehearsal, and practice rooms as well as collaborative gathering areas that promote interaction and scholarship among students and faculty.

Additionally, Johns Hopkins requires renovations to be designed and built to meet or exceed building codes. With the Peabody campus located within Baltimore City, this project will meet IgCC requirements and LEED Gold equivalency.

The current FY2027 Capital Budget Allocation is \$1.6 million which is less than Johns Hopkins had discussed with MICUA in the summer. We request the Committee's consideration to increase the allocation to \$2.0 million.

Accordingly, Johns Hopkins respectfully requests a FAVORABLE with Amendment committee report on HB391. Thank you.



**ST JOHN'S
College**

ANNAPOLIS • SANTA FE

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
March 2, 2026**

**Ally Gontang-Highfield
Vice President, Finance & Operations/Chief Finance Officer
St. John's College**

On behalf of St. John's College, President Paalman, and our Board of Visitors and Governors, thank you for the opportunity to present our planned capital project. We are grateful for the Maryland General Assembly's wonderful support of our past endeavors, and we are hopeful for the continued support for these upcoming transformative MICUA capital projects. With the endorsement of MICUA, St. John's College is **requesting a \$4 million State grant** to support this project. The estimated total cost is \$12.5 million.

St. John's College proposes the construction of an Arts and Academic Hall, the first new academic building project since the 1959 completion of Mellon Hall. Centrally located on the historic Annapolis campus, in close proximity to the academic hub of campus, Mellon Hall, the building will provide 7400 square feet, multiple studios and classrooms, of new usable arts and academic space. The Hall will provide accessible arts programming and general instruction space for students and faculty. The building would also help to relocate current art spaces and studios from the campus's largest academic building, Mellon Hall, and consolidate them in a coherent and more suitable space. The construction of a new building will also help create more fully accessible classroom spaces in Mellon Hall once the current studio offerings are relocated to the new building. This is an indirect benefit of the new construction, but essential to the greater campus community.

The construction of a new dedicated Arts and Academic Hall presents a wonderful opportunity for the College to improve upon our core academic and arts program experience for our entire campus community (students, staff and faculty). New construction will provide the campus with a (rare) energy efficient and fully ADA accessible building to house expanded, spacious, and updated offerings to include ceramics studio, wood shop, kiln room, sculpture studio, dark room, dry room, arts studio, and additional classroom space. Updated and functional arts spaces will greatly enhance our current students' experience – and will help to attract and recruit new students to the College.

Many of the current programmatic spaces are in need of updates/upgrades to serve student body needs. Arts spaces have had extraordinarily modest improvement in the past several decades due to many competing, capital intensive campus priorities – such as improving large common meeting rooms, student and faculty study and meeting areas, and the constant pressure to address living space conditions in residential halls.

Accessibility is an extremely concerning issue for the campus, since many of the historic

buildings lack elevator access to upper floors or other minimum ADA requirements to ensure equal access to all College spaces for our students (current and prospective), staff, faculty, and for the many campus visitors coming to the College to attend community events and programs. The majority of undergraduate student` classrooms reside in Mellon Hall and McDowell Hall. Several McDowell Hall upper classrooms are presently not accessible due to lack of elevator access to upper floors.

Maintaining adequate academic spaces for classes, lectures, and events allows St. John`s College and its students to thrive. By helping to ensure St. John`s success, the State of Maryland will continue to enjoy the benefits of hosting a liberal arts college with a national reputation in its capital city. Among these benefits are:

- St. John`s College educates Maryland citizens: About 14% of St. John`s College undergraduates and 34% of graduate students come from the State of Maryland. Many of our graduates who originally hail from outside of Maryland make Maryland their home upon graduation.
- St. John`s College plays a role in Maryland`s reputation as a state with top-tier schools: It is a liberal arts college with national status in the heart of Annapolis. It is the third oldest college in the United States with a unique discussion-based Great Books curriculum.
- St. John`s College adds to the economic well-being of Maryland: The College brings jobs, tuition dollars, and room and board funds to Maryland, as well as travel and tourism dollars associated with parent visits, prospective student visits, and public events held at St. John`s.
- Maryland residents make up 91% of St. John`s faculty and staff – and a flourishing college helps guarantee jobs that will continue to sustain and support Maryland residents.

The College recognizes that much of its success is due to the ongoing support from the State of Maryland. In support of Maryland, the College strives to utilize locally owned businesses and contractors. Through the course of this project, we estimate that 24 Maryland businesses will be engaged, supporting more than 144 Maryland jobs.

We appreciate your consideration of this project.

Current FY2027 Capital Budget Allocation: \$3.2 million

Requested FY2027 Capital Budget Appropriation: \$4.0 million

**House Appropriations Committee
Capital Budget Subcommittee
March 2, 2026**

**Vic Sensenig
Chief of Staff and Vice President for Planning and Policy
Washington College**

On behalf of Washington College, thank you for the recognition that investing in the infrastructure of our campus directly benefits the citizens of Maryland and assists in meeting the needs of our State's workforce. The College is grateful for the Maryland General Assembly's support of the MICUA capital grant program. With the endorsement of MICUA, Washington College seeks a State grant of **\$4 million** for fiscal 2027 to construct a new building to house The Warehime School of Global Business, Economics, and Social Impact. The total project cost for this facility will be \$18 million.

The building will be constructed on a premier and central site on campus, beside the Roy Kirby Jr. Stadium and across from the Casey Academic Center, which serves as the admissions gateway. The buildings on the site, the three Quad dorms, were constructed in 1973 and have reached the end of their useful life. These buildings, which were once functional, were characterized by several major issues that made them increasingly unsafe and impractical for modern student living. They were demolished in the summer of 2025.

The Warehime School will integrate the College's expertise in business management, economics, world languages, international studies, and liberal arts to offer students a global approach to business education. The curriculum will focus on real-world applications, social impact, and fostering collaborations that merge the analytical and theoretical knowledge of business with the practical realities of the global market. The Warehime School will also facilitate collaborations with businesses, non-profits, and international organizations to give students hands-on learning opportunities and create local and global ambassadors who shape the future for Maryland, the United States, and the world.

The Warehime School will provide a transformative business education in Maryland, connecting the liberal arts to an innovative curriculum in global business that will produce graduates prepared to enter careers that will drive local, regional, and global economic growth. By integrating diverse fields such as economics, international studies, and languages, this school will prepare students to succeed in a complex and interconnected global economy. Furthermore, Washington College has a history of producing successful alumni who make meaningful contributions in their communities and industries. In Fall 2024, there were 142 students with these majors, which represents 20 percent of the current headcount, a proportion that has been steadily increasing over the last decade. In addition, many other students take courses in these disciplines. The College sees the Warehime School as an investment in an area of strength.

Business at Washington College is intrinsically tied to fostering economic growth and social impact – creating communities that thrive. The establishment of this School is timely, given the increasing demand for business professionals who understand global markets, economics, and

social responsibility. The business education landscape in Maryland will be enriched by offering a program that marries academic rigor with practical, global experience.

The State of Maryland will enjoy multiple benefits from the project, including:

- ***Economic Impact:*** A recent economic impact study found that Washington College has an over \$75 million annual impact on the State of Maryland, but there is room to grow. The Warehime School will provide a significant boost to the local economy. Beyond the direct investment in the building and operational costs, the School will attract students and faculty from across the State, region, and nation. The College's expansion will increase demand for local goods, services, housing, and transportation. The project will enhance Maryland's reputation as a hub for innovative higher education, drawing prospective students from a global talent pool.
- ***Job Creation and Workforce Development:*** The new School will create jobs both directly (faculty, staff, administration) and indirectly (local businesses providing goods and services). Graduates of The Warehime School will be highly trained in business, economics, and social impact, contributing to the State's workforce with a highly skilled pool of talent. This will help strengthen the State's economy by addressing gaps in sectors such as finance, consulting, global trade, and non-profit leadership.
- ***Enhancement of Maryland's Reputation as a Leader in Education and Business Innovation:*** The establishment of The Warehime School will elevate Maryland's standing as a leader in both higher education and global business innovation. The interdisciplinary model, which connects business education with a strong liberal arts foundation, will make Maryland an attractive destination for students who seek a comprehensive, socially responsible business education. On average, 40 percent of incoming classes are recruited from Maryland, but almost 50 percent of graduates obtain their first employment in-state.
- ***Strengthening Regional Partnerships and International Ties:*** The global nature of the School's curriculum will foster strong international partnerships, creating opportunities for Maryland businesses to expand their global reach and for students to engage with global markets. This will have long-term benefits, including attracting international businesses to Maryland and creating global networks for local entrepreneurs.

We truly appreciate the State of Maryland's continued support of Washington College. Thank you for your consideration of this important project, which will have a positive impact on the institution and the State.

Current FY2027 Capital Budget Allocation: \$3.2 million

Requested FY2027 Capital Budget Appropriation: \$4.0 million