

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-002-2020

Draft No.: 1

Committee: General Assembly Committee

Date: 2/11/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 4-0 (In Favor: Council Members Davis, Taveras, Ivey and Turner)

The General Assembly Committee convened on February 11, 2020 to review, CR-2-2020, which expresses the County Council's support of the settlement offer made by the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Coalition ("HBCU Coalition") to resolve the lawsuit against the State of Maryland; and urging Governor Hogan and the members of the Maryland General Assembly to settle the HBCU Coalition lawsuit in accordance with the Court ruling and the offer made by the HBCU Coalition.

The State of Maryland has four Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), including Bowie State University, located in Prince George's County; Morgan State University and Coppin State University, both located in Baltimore City, and; the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, located in Somerset County. These institutions are an essential part of the Maryland higher education system and they provide unique educational opportunities for large segments of the population of the State, as well as serving as economic engines in their communities and the State of Maryland.

Monica Best-James, Legislative Officer, provided a summary of the resolution, indicating that the settlement offer made by the HBCU Coalition consists of \$577 million over a ten-year period as compensation for the discriminatory practices that have impacted the HBCUs in Maryland. Ms. Best-James indicated that Baltimore City and the City of Bowie have passed similar resolutions. Adrienne Jones, Speaker of the Maryland House of Delegates, has introduced HB 1260, which requires the Governor to include \$577 million in the annual State operating budget in each of the fiscal years 2022 through 2031 to be allocated to the four HBCUs in Maryland based on an enrollment-driven calculation. The Committee's discussion included testimony in support from Sharon Blake (Morgan State University Alum), of the Maryland HBCU Advocates. Committee Chair Davis indicated his personal support as a proud graduate of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and Committee Director Kenneth Battle is a proud graduate of Morgan State University (Class of '84).

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CR-2-2020 by a vote of 4-0.