



Senate Finance Committee

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

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SB 419 – Labor and Employment – Grant Program for Workforce Skills Assessment

POSITION: Support

Maryland's Association of Community Colleges ("MACC") representing Maryland's 16 community colleges supports SB 419 that outlines a new grant program within the Department of Labor.

The Program will benefit Maryland employers, Maryland's work force, Maryland's education and certification providers, and the State. The information generated by this Program will give Maryland employers the information and tools to make faster employment decisions with a reasonable expectation that their decisions to employ Maryland residents will be successful. Maryland employees will benefit from a resulting sustained and successful employment relationship. By matching skill requirements to an employee's ability, empirical data shows that the resulting employment relationships are sustained longer, safety ratings are improved, and employee turnover is measurably decreased.

This Program will be especially important to disadvantaged and at-risk employees seeking meaningful employment. The data generated by the Program will assist providers of workforce training and certification in their course development and training which will enable students to develop the skills that match the local and regional job market. MACC is proud of the work done by our college in Washington County which is working with local area employers to implement the ACT WorkKeys information product. Our workforce training and certification opportunities at the various community colleges across Maryland continue to have measurable success in aligning employee abilities to employer needs.

A working Maryland is a better Maryland and a work force with the skills required by existing Maryland employers will keep these employers in Maryland as well as attract new employers to the State which will require skills identified by this Program.

For more information - <https://workreadycommunities.org>

<https://workreadycommunities.org/employers>