



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director

bsadusky@mdacc.org

and

The Maryland Council of Community College Presidents

HB 460 – Transfer with Success Act

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) and the Maryland Council of Community College Presidents strongly support HB 460.

We greatly appreciate Delegate Solomon taking the time to meet with our community college presidents concerning the important need for transparency in credit and course denial decisions. This legislation calls for a data collection process with the intent of documenting those courses and credits that are denied transfer and provide feed-back to students and sending institutions on the reasons why a course or credit are denied transfer.

MACC recognizes that much work is currently being done to retool and improve ARTSYS and that two- and four- year faculty discipline committees are meeting to implement and strengthen statewide transfer agreements. While we support these efforts and initiatives, they do not provide accountability for denying the transfer of credits or courses.

With National data showing that 22% of credits are lost upon transfer, it is imperative to address this issue. The request for a comprehensive data collection process established in this legislation is a first step in streamlining Maryland's transfer process.

The reporting required by this legislation will benefit students, the State, and our public postsecondary institutions for the following reasons:

THE STUDENT

Without transparency concerning credit or course transfer decisions, transferring students lack the information to determine what course credits will be accepted by the four-year institution to which they desire to transfer. As a result, students are left having to retake a course(s) despite following all the rules, whether they be an articulation agreement or the utilization of the state's transfer system, ARTSYS.

When students are required to retake a course, it delays the completion of their degree requirements and increases the cost of the desired degree. Time and cost are the two main reasons students do not complete their degree requirements.

MACC believes these students are owed an explanation when their courses or credits do not transfer. This legislation allows for the sending institution to understand why a course or credit(s) did not transfer and to advocate on the student's behalf when the receiving institution refuses to accept transfer of courses or credits.

THE STATE

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), nationwide data shows that up to 22% of credits are lost when a student transfers from a community college to a public four-year institution. Nearly a third of college students transfer for various reasons in their pursuit of a college degree.

The State supports the operating costs of all public post-secondary institutions. Requiring a student to repeat a class at a public four-year institution has a substantial impact on the State's financial commitments. On average, Maryland spends \$13,307 per full-time equivalent student (FTES) at public four-year institutions and \$3,327 (if not BRFA'd) per FTES at the community colleges. In short, that is a 400% increase on a per FTES basis over what the State's financial commitment is for community colleges.

Maryland currently does not have the ability to determine how much money the State is being asked to re-support students who take courses at a community college and are denied credit or course transfer. This legislation may find that Maryland is doing a much better job than what is happening nationally. Maryland does have a strong pipeline for transfer students from the community colleges to University System of Maryland institutions.

THE INSTITUTION

This legislation requires institutions to report why a course or credit does not transfer giving sending institutions the opportunity to review course outcomes and make adjustments to ensure future transfer acceptance.

A more transparent process would eliminate the need for the array of current articulation agreements between the two- and four-year institutions. Currently much time and limited resources are spent among Maryland's institutions of higher education negotiating an array of articulation agreements with individual institutions. The last report from MHEC documents that well over 300 articulation agreements exist between the two- and four- year segments of higher education. Articulation agreements often come with "fine print" that becomes a barrier as students try to understand their options and determine the best path forward to degree completion. The ultimate goal of streamlining the transfer process would allow all this institutional effort to be directed at student success strategies instead of crafting complicated deals to overcome transfer barriers.

CONCLUSION

Higher education institutions must be able to navigate transferability in a responsible way for students. The information and transparency required by this legislation will enable Maryland's post-secondary institutions to reduce credit and course transfer denials and better serve Maryland students by expediting the time-to-degree and reducing student debt.

**THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION
OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES**
Executive Director

Bernard Sadusky 1/26/21

Executive Director Signature Date

Dr. Bernard Sadusky
Printed Name

THE MARYLAND COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENTS

ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND
President

Cynthia Bambara 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Dr. Cynthia Bambara
Printed Name

**ANNE ARUNDEL COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
President

Dawn Lindsay 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Dr. Dawn Lindsay
Printed Name

**BALTIMORE CITY COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**
President

Debra McCurdy 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Dr. Debra McCurdy
Printed Name

FREDERICK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
President

Elizabeth Burmaster 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Elizabeth Burmaster
Printed Name

GARRETT COLLEGE
President

Richard Midcap 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Dr. Richard Midcap
Printed Name

HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
President

James Klauber 1/26/21
President Signature Date

Dr. James Klauber
Printed Name

CARROLL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President

James D. Ball

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. James Ball

Printed Name

HARFORD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President

Theresa Felder

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Theresa Felder

Printed Name

CECIL COLLEGE

President

Mary Way Bolt

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Mary Way Bolt

Printed Name

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President

Kathleen Hetherington

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Kathleen Hetherington

Printed Name

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE

President

Clifford Coppersmith

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Clifford Coppersmith

Printed Name

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

President

DeRionne Pollard

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. DeRionne Pollard

Printed Name

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MD

President

Maureen Murphy

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Maureen Murphy

Printed Name

PRINCE GEORGE'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President

Felicia Williams

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Felicia Williams

Printed Name

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF
BALTIMORE COUNTY**

President

Sandra Kurtinitis

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Sandra Kurtinitis

Printed Name

WOR-WIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President

Ray Hoy

1/26/21

President Signature Date

Dr. Ray Hoy

Printed Name