

**House Appropriations Committee**  
February 20, 2024

**HB 607 - Community Colleges - Maryland Community College Promise  
Scholarship - Requirements**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges strongly supports **HB 607**, which is a technical correction that makes it easier for individuals in noncredit programs to receive a Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship (Scholarship). This MACC priority legislation will allow students in noncredit programs to verify income eligibility without having to file a FAFSA, instead enabling use of another application.

Currently, Maryland Statute still requires students who are enrolled in noncredit workforce programs to complete a FAFSA, even though no federal aid can be awarded. This causes delays and, in some instances, unnecessary steps to receive the scholarship, resulting in fewer students being eligible and ultimately reducing the number of students receiving the award.

These courses are essential to address the training requirements necessary to fill workforce shortages in our State. If an individual applies for the Scholarship and plans to enroll in a noncredit program, a course that leads to certification or licensure, or participates in a registered apprenticeship program, this bill will allow community colleges to verify income eligibility without having to require them to do so with a FAFSA.

These changes will allow the colleges to streamline the process and helps students in the critical moments when students need to know if they can afford to pay tuition. These changes will facilitate better support and services for noncredit students during their education and create more access and affordability for students who are seeking workforce credentials. MACC strongly urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 607**.

Please contact Brad Phillips ([bphillips@mdacc.org](mailto:bphillips@mdacc.org)) or Drew Jabin ([djabin@mdacc.org](mailto:djabin@mdacc.org)) with questions.