

**House Economic Matters Committee**  
February 21, 2024

**HB 536 - Correctional Services Apprenticeship Start-Up Grant Program –  
Establishment**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges supports **HB 536**, which establishes the Correctional Services Apprenticeship Start-Up Grant Program within the Department of Labor. This bill creates new educational pathways to embark on a career within correctional services.

Maryland's community colleges work with correctional facilities to provide education and training programs for incarcerated individuals. These partnerships aim to support rehabilitation efforts, reduce recidivism rates, and promote successful reentry into society after release.

As many apprenticeship programs lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications that enhance participants' employability and advancement opportunities, MACC supports this legislation. Community colleges believe that with hands-on experience and mentorship, apprentices develop the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their roles, ultimately contributing to the safety and well-being of Maryland's communities. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 536**.

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