



A Union of Professionals
AFT-Maryland

5800 Metro Drive, Suite 100 • Baltimore, MD 21215-3226
410/764-3030 • fax: 410/764-3008
md.aft.org

Kenya Campbell
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony Submitted to the Maryland Senate Education,
Energy and the Environment Committee
SB 395 - Higher Education - Credit Eligibility and Transfer of Credits - English as a
Second Language Courses (Credit for All Language Learning (CALL) Act)
February 14, 2024**

FAVORABLE

Chair Feldman and members of the Committee. AFT-MD asks for a favorable report on SB 395, which aims to ensure the seamless transfer of credits from public community colleges to institutions of higher education in our state. This bill is crucial for promoting educational equity and facilitating the academic advancement of students across our state.

The bill addresses the recognition of English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Language Learner (ELL) courses for credits toward an associate degree. This recognizes the importance of language acquisition and cultural competency in today's globalized society. ESL and ELL courses should be valued and acknowledged for their academic rigor and contribution to students' overall educational experience.

By requiring public community colleges to consider ESL and ELL courses as eligible for world language or humanities electives credit, House Bill 569 promotes inclusivity and recognizes the diverse linguistic backgrounds of students in our education system. This provision not only acknowledges the value of ESL and ELL education but also ensures that students who have completed these courses receive the recognition and credit they deserve for their hard work and dedication.

Furthermore, SB 395 addresses the need for a statewide transfer agreement that guarantees the transferability of credits earned at community colleges to public senior higher education institutions. This agreement is essential for facilitating the academic progression of students and eliminating barriers to their educational attainment.

Again, AFT-MD urges a favorable report on SB 395 and its provisions, including the recognition of ESL and ELL courses for credits toward an associate degree. By doing so, we can ensure that all students have equitable access to higher education opportunities and can pursue their academic and professional goals without unnecessary obstacles. Thank you.

