

**House Judiciary Committee**

March 7, 2024

**HB 1405 - Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Incarcerated  
Individual Apprenticeship Program**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1405**. This bill focuses on creating opportunities for individuals in prison to learn trade skills and serve as a paid apprentice through the establishment of the Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

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.

By providing incarcerated individuals with marketable job skills, this bill may also assist in reducing the likelihood that individuals will re-offend after release. This aligns with the community college's broader goals of promoting education as a pathway to social and economic stability. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 1405**.

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