

House Appropriations Committee

March 19, 2026

**HB 845 - Higher Education - Community College Promise Scholarship Eligibility - Delmar
High School Graduates**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 845**. Maryland residents should have equal access to the State's higher education programs and financial aid opportunities. However, a unique geographic situation affecting the Town of Delmar means that some Maryland students graduate from Delmar High School, which is physically located just across the state line in Delaware. Despite being Maryland residents, these students may not currently qualify for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship because the statute requires graduation from a high school located in Maryland.

House Bill 845 corrects this technical issue by ensuring that Maryland residents of Delmar who graduate from Delmar High School remain eligible for the Community College Promise Scholarship. These students live in Maryland communities, contribute to Maryland's workforce, and should have the same opportunity to access this important program as other Maryland high school graduates.

Community colleges serve as the primary pathway for many of these students to pursue higher education and workforce training. Ensuring that Delmar, Maryland students are eligible for the Promise Scholarship supports educational access and strengthens workforce development opportunities on the Eastern Shore. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 845**.

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