



March 11, 2026,

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair,
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee,

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 728 – Higher Education – Community College Promise Scholarship – Eligibility**, sponsored by Senator [Sponsor Name].

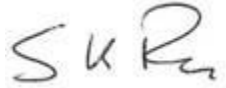
SB 728 makes an important clarification to the eligibility requirements for the Community College Promise Scholarship by ensuring that Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School remain eligible for this critical financial aid program. Because Delmar High School serves students in a unique border community shared between Maryland and Delaware, Maryland residents attending the school may face unintended barriers when applying for certain State financial aid programs tied to high school location or residency criteria.

The Community College Promise Scholarship plays an essential role in Maryland's efforts to expand access to affordable higher education and workforce training. The program supports students pursuing associate degrees, workforce credentials, and transfer pathways while helping reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education. Ensuring that all eligible Maryland residents—particularly those living in border communities—have fair access to this opportunity aligns with the State's broader goals of promoting educational attainment, economic mobility, and workforce development.

SB 728 addresses this narrow but meaningful gap by clarifying eligibility so that Maryland residents graduating from Delmar High School are not inadvertently excluded from participating in the program. By doing so, the bill strengthens equity in the administration of the Community College Promise Scholarship and ensures that students are not disadvantaged due to geographic circumstances beyond their control.

For these reasons, the Maryland Higher Education Commission respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 728**.

Yours in Service,

Handwritten signature of Sanjay Rai in black ink.

Secretary Sanjay Rai
Maryland Higher Education Commission