

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

January 28, 2026

SB 198 - Prince George's Community College - Aerospace Technology Studies Program**Position: Letter of Information**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, offers this letter of information on **SB 198**. MACC appreciates the sponsor's interest in expanding workforce pathways and preparing students for careers in high-demand industries such as aerospace and advanced technology. Maryland's community colleges share this goal and regularly work with employers and regional partners to develop new academic and workforce programs that respond to evolving labor market needs.

SB 198 would require the establishment of a specific academic program at Prince George's Community College through statute. Decisions regarding the creation of new academic programs at Maryland's community colleges are typically guided by a collaborative process that considers workforce demand, student interest, institutional capacity, facilities, accreditation requirements, and long-term sustainability. This process involves the institution, the Maryland Higher Education Commission, and relevant industry partners.

MACC believes this existing framework provides the appropriate pathway for evaluating whether an aerospace technology program should be developed at Prince George's Community College. It enables a thorough assessment of need and feasibility while preserving local governance and statewide academic planning. Establishing academic programs through legislation may bypass these important considerations and could create challenges related to institutional capacity and program sustainability.

MACC respectfully suggests that proposals to establish new academic or workforce programs be pursued through the established institutional and State approval processes rather than through statute. This approach ensures that new programs align with demonstrated workforce demand, are supported by institutional resources, and are coordinated with broader higher education planning efforts. For these reasons, MACC submits this letter of information and appreciates the opportunity to provide context on the process for developing and approving new academic programs at Maryland's community colleges.

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