



Maryland Association for Adult,
Community and Continuing Education

Maryland Association for Adult,
Community & Continuing
Education
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<https://mdadulted.org/>

MAACCE Executive Committee:

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Maryland Department of
Corrections

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Chesapeake College

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Treasurer
Elev8 Baltimore

February 9, 2026

TO: Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing
Education (MAACCE)

DATE: February 11, 2026

BILL: Adult Education - High School Diploma Pathways - GED Option Pilot
Program and MDiplomaWorks Pathway

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB297

HB297, with the requested Departmental amendment, would establish
MDiplomaWorks as a pathway for adult learners to earn their High School
Diploma (“Diploma”).

**Maryland Association for Adult, Community and Continuing Education
(MAACCE) supports HB297’s establishment of this new pathway as a**

way for learners to demonstrate their high school equivalency. Adult
Education resources and GED completion are essential components of
Maryland’s workforce development efforts. Expanding access to these
opportunities empowers adult learners to achieve meaningful educational
milestones that open doors to stable employment and career advancement.

Strong workforce development initiatives create pathways to in-demand
careers, while continuing education strengthens Maryland’s talent pipeline and
equips professionals with the skills needed to thrive in a competitive, evolving
economy.

There are nearly 500,000 Marylanders without Diplomas; HB297 would
enable **MAACCE** members to better assist more of these individuals by
adding an additional diploma option. As an additional pathway for adult
learners to obtain a GED, MDiplomaWorks will help Marylanders build the
academic and workforce skills needed for stable employment and career
advancement.

MAACCE respectfully requests a favorable report on HB297 with MD
Labor’s requested amendment. For questions, please contact Andrea Johnson-
Fricks, MAACCE Advocacy Committee Chair, at alfricks2012@gmail.com or
(480) 748-1088 [mobile].

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Rawlings
President
Board of Directors