



House Appropriations Committee

HB 719 Higher Education-Transfer Students-Courses Counting Toward Chosen Degree

Testimony by

Dr. Mary Way Bolt

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Position: Support

Maryland community colleges offer an entryway to higher education for thousands of students through open admission and lower tuition rates. Students who enter higher education through Maryland community colleges are much more likely than those who start at four-year institutions to be low-income or the first in their family to attend college. Community colleges play a critical role in workforce development, but many students entering community colleges hope to earn a bachelor's degree. Students face financial and other reasons that may deter them from entering through a four-year college or university. Therefore, the two- to four-year transfer process, when it works as intended by policy and statute, supports students, workforce and economic development.

However the transfer process does not always work well for many students. National surveys indicate that the vast majority of students who enroll in a community college intend to earn a bachelor's degree. Yet of 720,000 degree-seeking students who entered a community college in fall 2007, only about 100,000, or 14 percent, transferred to a four-year college and earned a bachelor's degree within 6 years (Aspen Institute Transfer Playbook). Far from achieving its promise, the transfer process may end up wasting student and taxpayer resources. Worse, it discourages students pursuing their higher education goal.

COMAR 13B.06.01.04 H. Student Responsibilities. A student is held:

- (1) Accountable for the loss of credits that:
 - (a) Result from changes in the student's selection of the major program of study.
 - (b) Were earned for remedial course work, or
 - (c) Exceed the total course credits accepted in transfer as allowed by this chapter; and
- (2) Responsible for meeting all requirements of the academic program of the receiving institution.

What are the public four year institutions responsibilities to the transfer student?

Thank you for your serious consideration of this bill. Your support and your efforts to improve Maryland community college's student experience with transfer to four year public institutions will benefit of the citizens of the state.

Office of the President

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