



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY

Submitted by

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HB 1082 – High Education – Denial of Transfer Credit – Notice and Report (Transfer with Success Act)

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC) strongly supports HB 1082. We greatly appreciate Delegate Solomon's taking the time to meet with our community college presidents concerning the important need for transparency in credit denial decisions. The reporting required by this legislation will benefit students, the State, and our public postsecondary institutions for the following reasons:

THE STUDENT

Without transparency concerning credit transfer decisions, transfer students lack the information to determine what course credits will be accepted by the four-year institution to which they desire to transfer. As a result, students are left having to retake a course(s) despite following all the rules, whether they be an articulation agreement or the utilization of the state's transfer system, ARTSYS.

When students are required to retake a course, it delays the completion of their degree requirements and increases the cost of the desired degree. Time and cost are the two main reasons students do not complete their degree requirements.

MACC believes these students are owed an explanation when a course does not transfer. This legislation allows for the sending institution to understand why a course did not transfer and to advocate on the student's behalf when the receiving institution refuses to accept transfer credits. Transparency will also assist higher education institutions to make course and instruction decisions resulting in successful transfer.

THE STATE

According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), nationwide data shows that up to 22% of credits are lost when a student transfers from a community college to a public four-year institution. Nearly a third of college students transfer for various reasons in their pursuit of a college degree.

The State supports the operating costs of all public post-secondary institutions. Requiring a student to repeat a class at a public four-year institution has a substantial impact on the State's financial

commitments. On average, Maryland spends \$13,307 per full-time equivalent student (FTES) at public four-year institutions and \$3,327 (if not BRFA'd) per FTES at the community colleges. In short, that is a 400% increase on a per FTES basis over what the State's financial commitment is for community colleges.

Maryland currently does not have the ability to determine how much money the State is being asked to re-support students who take courses at a community college and are denied transfer credit. This legislation may find that Maryland is doing a much better job than what is happening nationally. Maryland does have a strong pipeline for transfer students from the community colleges to University System of Maryland institutions.

CONCLUSION

Higher education institutions must be able to navigate transferability in a responsible way for students. The information and transparency required by this legislation will enable Maryland's post-secondary institutions to reduce credit transfer denials and better serve Maryland students.