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Education and Economic Development  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB: 1082 Higher Education – Transfer With Success Act**

Good afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Jackson, Esteemed Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on my legislation – the Transfer with Success Act. It's an honor to serve on this committee and to be before you this afternoon.

Many young people in our state, particularly low-income and first generation students, rely on community college as their first step to a rewarding future. To ensure their success, there must be an effective, transparent process allowing students to seamlessly transfer from one institution to another. All too often students face unnecessary barriers and undue financial hardship when their Associate Degree and Community College credits are inexplicitly denied as they attempt to transfer to our four year universities. Faced with increasing debt and the loss of momentum, many students abandon their educational dreams – a loss to the student as well as our state.

The challenges facing transfer students are well documented:

- Nearly 40% of students received no college transfer credit, losing an average of 27 credits a piece, or almost a full year of college.
- Across the country, it is estimated that less than one-third (32.4%) of students who transferred to or co-enrolled in another institution within six years of their initial enrollment were able to transfer all of their credits. In contrast, 39.4% of the sample lost all of their credits upon transferring, and the remaining 28.2% of students lost at least some of their credits.
- The U.S. Department of Education reports, on average, a transfer student still loses 13 credits already earned and paid for. That's more than a semester's worth of work, or, for all of those students collectively, the equivalent of 186,000 years of college. About four in 10 have no credits transfer at all, and are forced to begin from scratch.
- Complete College America estimates that every two courses per degree recipient for which the credits fail to transfer cost families and taxpayers a total of \$600 million.

The proposed legislation provides for transparency to the transfer process by requiring the receiving institution (*where the student is transferring to*) to specify the reasons for any denial of credits. This information will allow students desiring to transfer to another State postsecondary institution to enroll in courses in which the student knows that earned credits will be accepted.

Equally important is that the transparency required by this legislation will provide the sending institution (*where the student is transferring from*) with the information required to amend or restructure its course requirements and curricula to ensure future credits will be accepted.

Presently, there is no institutional data which specifies why credits are not acceptable to the receiving institution. This legislation requires that institutions forward this information to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for its evaluation and consideration to develop state-wide protocol agreements among our State institutions.

The transparency required by the legislation will benefit students. It will reduce the State's cost sharing burden for our public institutions and it will provide transfer institutions with the information to amend their current curricula and instruction to facilitate acceptance of credit upon transfer. The "protection" of transparency in credit acceptance decisions will benefit all concerned.

I ask for a favorable report of HB 1082.