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Washington County

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Subcommittees

Housing and Real Property

Local Government and  
Bi-County Issues



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**HB0814 – Higher Education – Transfer of Credits**

I am pleased to present HB0814 on behalf of those community college students who strive to keep education affordable. As it was for me, community college was not a choice. It was a requirement – a reality -- if I sought to complete a degree in higher education upon graduation from high school. It was all that I could afford as my parents did not have the financial means to assist me with college tuition. They graciously provided me with room and board while I attended Hagerstown Community College.

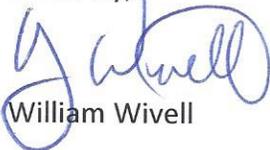
This bill is about affordability. It's about fairness. It's about a promise made to our students who attend a community college with the expectation that the courses they take there will not be required to be repeated once they continue their education at a public senior higher education institution in Maryland.

The Washington County Delegation was approached last fall by representatives of our Community College, and the issue was again brought to light just recently when I was contacted by a recipient of a House of Delegates Scholarship. The recipient transferred to Salisbury University from Hagerstown Community College. His father stated that his son was given "inaccurate advice as to the credits that would transfer". As a result, the student was forced to take classes during the summer and in the interim between sessions to make up for lost credits. Ultimately, the disallowance of credits forced him to continue an additional semester for 4 credits which he could not take over the summer, which also required him to renew his housing lease for an additional term and disqualified him for full-time status.

Our public colleges of higher learning are all a part of the same system. There should be no question that 100 and 200-level courses taken at a community college are transferable to another public senior higher education institution within the same system.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I ask for a favorable report. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
William Wivell