



House Appropriations Committee

March 15, 2021

**Submitted by
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HB 1208 - Task Force to Study Academic Credit for Prior Learning Higher Education

Position: Support with Amendment

Prior learning assessments allow student to earn college credit for knowledge and experience gained outside the classroom. Community colleges, being primary providers of adult learners, provide prior learning credits in a wide range of circumstances. Prior learning credit expedites the time to degree for many adults who return to our campuses with years of workforce experience and skills that are applicable to a college degree or workforce credentials. We have found this to be especially true for military veterans with medical experience seeking nursing degrees or other allied health credentials.

All students receiving prior learning credits are vetted by faculty with expertise in the content knowledge of the field of study. This requires considerable time as each student must be vetted separately. Unfortunately, going through the vetting process does not guarantee a student's prior learning credit(s) are accepted upon transfer.

MACC knows that much can be done to give students returning to our campuses credit for prior learning and fully supports a task force to enhance this portion of a student's portfolio.

In addition to supporting the goals and recommendations of the Task Force as outlined in the legislation, MACC requests the Committee support an amendment that calls for a data collection process that requires an institution to report on the denial of transfer of prior learning credits that have been granted by an accredited Maryland institution.