



House Economic Matters Committee

Testimony Submitted by Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director
February 17, 2021

HB 653 – Joint Committee on Workforce Development

Position: Favorable with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community College which represents all of Maryland's 16 community colleges supports HB 653 specifying that a joint committee study and report on the state's workforce development. Maryland's community colleges are the leading provider of educational programming for workforce certification and licensure. Last year, our community colleges awarded 53,068 licensure and certifications. That is in addition to the number of customized programs for existing industries totally 73,000 participants.

Our community colleges are the primary provider of programs leading to a strong middle class which ensures Maryland's economic vitality. We support the intent of this bill in developing a strong review panel that would be charged with making recommendations to all segments of Maryland's education system that provide programming in this area.

The Committee should recognize that a thorough review and analysis will require technical expertise. **MACC therefore recommends the inclusion of two community college representatives on the Committee; one representing our credit programs of study and one representing our non-credit programs of study that lead to industry credentials.**

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