



Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Testimony by
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SB 540 - Higher Education-Transfer Platform-Established (Transfer with Success Act 2.0)

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, offers our support for SB 540 that streamlines the transfer process between Maryland's 2- and 4-year institutions of higher education.

For students, seamless transfer from a community college to a four-year institution is an equity issue. If a student begins at a community college but does not receive credit for that work once they transfer, the additional time and cost is a barrier. Not only does the loss of credit impact the cost for students, but it also adds additional costs to the state. The additional time it takes to repeat a course also depletes financial aid eligibility.

Building on the Transfer with Success Act of 2021, MACC is asking the State for an annual general fund appropriation of \$1M designed to support not only a rigorous transfer and articulation system that is statewide, but also a framework that will require institutions who participate to honor transfer information that is presented in an updated transfer equivalency enterprise platform known as ARTSYS. All Maryland's institutions will benefit from the request. Even more important, students will benefit from knowing that courses they take at a Maryland community college will transfer to a four-year institution in Maryland. MACC also request that the cost be reviewed annually to make certain the state appropriation covers the full cost of the transfer platform.

To update and maintain ARTSYS will require institutions to evaluate and review courses to make certain all course equivalencies and competencies are accurate and a student taking a course can be assured the course will transfer. By funding and maintaining the new transfer system, students can be guaranteed courses will transfer prior to enrolling in the course instead of finding out after a student has completed the course that it does not meet the receiving institutions criteria for transfer.

MACC thanks Senator Elfreth and the cosponsors for introducing this legislation and asks that the Committee give it a favorable report.