



EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Testimony by

Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

March 8, 2022

SB 620 – Higher Education – Articulation Agreements and Transfer Procedures – Workgroup Study (Maryland Articulation and Transfer Act)

POSITION: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland's 16 public two-year institutions of postsecondary education, offer our support for Senate Bill 620 that creates a workgroup to address articulation agreements and transfer procedures and suggests the below amendment that will expand the workgroup to include the other segments of Maryland's higher education system:

(3) the following members representing four-year institutions of higher education in the State, appointed by the Maryland Higher Education Commission:

- (i) The president of the Maryland Independent Colleges and University Association, or designee;
- (ii) The president of Morgan State University, or designee;
- (iii) The president of St. Mary's College of Maryland, or designee.

There are several bills that have been introduced this Session that if enacted will assist in strengthening Maryland's transfer system. Specifically, MACC has offered support to legislation that creates a new electronic platform for all Maryland students seeking to transfer. We recognize that credits that are denied upon transfer add time to degree completion and are costly to students and to the state. Additional time also depletes a student's financial aid eligibility.

This legislation would provide a forum for the two- and four-year institutions to meet on a regular basis to identify barriers and make recommendations to assure that Maryland will create a transfer system that will be among the best in the nation.

MACC supports this legislation with the suggested amendments and thanks the sponsor for introducing it.