

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Testimony by Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director

January 31, 2024

SB 407 - Community College – Capital Projects – State Share Adjustment

POSITION: Support

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, we support this legislation and thank Senator McKay for sponsoring this bill. This legislation will align statute for community colleges already in statute for libraries and public schools by offering the same adjustment in State and local match formulas.

The General Assembly passed the Build to Learn Act during the 2020 Legislative Session, which enabled certain counties to use the match rate for neighboring jurisdictions for capital projects and last year, HB 1249 allowed for libraries to benefit from the same adjustment. This bill also uses the same language that provides for a State share adjustment to be applied to community colleges as well.

Even though the legislation is Statewide, the community college that will most likely benefit from the adjustment is Garrett College. Garrett County still has a 50-50 match rate for community colleges. Garrett County is a rural county with a median household income that is below the bottom quartile of the State. At issue is the wealth generated by vacation homes around Deep Creek Lake, which distorts the current State matching formula for the community college.

Aligning the State share for community colleges with what is already permissible for public schools and libraries will help Garret College provide the state-of-the-art facilities needed to grow the region's economy and increase the higher education attainment rate.

MACC requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 407.