

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
February 28, 2024

**SB 637 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption
Eligibility**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 637**, which aims to increase eligibility for in-state tuition rates in the State. Current law requires individuals (or their parents/guardians) to file taxes in Maryland for at least three years to qualify for in-state tuition – SB 637 would change this requirement to require only one year of taxes filed in the State.

This legislation will strongly benefit individuals or families who have recently moved to the state or have only recently started filing taxes. Allowing more students to qualify for in-state tuition reduces the financial burden associated with higher education – and promotes social mobility and equitable opportunities for all individuals to pursue their educational aspirations.

Community colleges in Maryland take an inclusive approach to education and believe this legislation is another tool for making higher education more accessible to a broader range of students. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 637**.

For questions, please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org).