

**House Ways and Means Committee**

February 15, 2024

**HB 685 - Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology  
Commission****Position: Favorable with Amendments**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 685** with a friendly amendment. This bill would establish the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission in order to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace opportunities. MACC respectfully asks for a seat at the table and to be amended in as a member of the Commission.

Community colleges are engines of economic growth, fueling innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation within our state. Through collaboration with industry partners and government agencies, community colleges help drive economic development in the aerospace and technology sectors, benefiting our communities and the state as a whole. By including community colleges in this Commission, Maryland can ensure that our programs are aligned with industry needs, providing students with the skills and training necessary to thrive in ever evolving sectors.

Community colleges in Maryland have a significant role to play in advancing the goals of this Commission and urge you to consider including us as integral members. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 685** with **AMENDMENTS** to include a representative of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges as a member of the Commission.

Please contact Brad Phillips ([bphillips@mdacc.org](mailto:bphillips@mdacc.org)) or Drew Jabin ([djabin@mdacc.org](mailto:djabin@mdacc.org)) with questions.