
House Appropriations Committee
February 25, 2025

HB 607 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - PAREA Grant Program - Established

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 607**, which establishes the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) Grant Program to expand access to the real estate appraisal profession and address appraisal gaps in historically underserved communities.

Community colleges serve as key access points for workforce training, providing affordable, high-quality education that aligns with Maryland's economic and workforce needs. Expanding pathways into the real estate appraisal profession through targeted financial support will increase diversity in the field, improve career opportunities for underrepresented individuals, and help correct longstanding appraisal disparities in historically redlined neighborhoods.

By providing grants to minorities in underrepresented communities, HB 607 ensures that individuals who may not otherwise have access to this career path can receive the training and certification necessary to become real estate appraisers. Expanding diversity in this field is essential to ensuring fair and accurate property valuations and strengthening economic development in communities that have been historically undervalued. Additionally, by removing financial barriers for students pursuing PAREA certification, HB 607 supports Maryland's community colleges in their mission to provide equitable access to career training. This initiative will create new pathways for career changers, working adults, and those seeking stable, well-paying jobs in the real estate sector.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 607**.

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