

House Appropriations Committee

February 18, 2024

HB 1090 - Food Supplement Benefits - Students - Eligibility**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1090**. This bill expands access to food supplement benefits for students in higher education who participate in work-study programs. Eliminating student hunger is a priority for MACC, and this bill is a critical step toward ensuring that all students have the nourishment they need to succeed.

The need for food security does not end with high school graduation. College students, particularly those attending community colleges, may face significant financial challenges as they balance coursework, employment, and family responsibilities. Many are low-income, first-generation, or working adults who may have to cover both tuition and basic living expenses. Without reliable access to food, students are more likely to experience academic difficulties, increased stress, and a greater risk of stopping out.

HB 1090 recognizes that students who are actively working to support their education should not have to worry about where their next meal will come from. By expanding food assistance eligibility to those participating in work-study programs, this bill provides a vital support system that helps students stay enrolled, complete their education, and ultimately contribute to Maryland's workforce and economy. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 1090**.

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