

House Appropriations Committee

February 11, 2025

HB 762 - Maryland Higher Education Commission - Higher Education Goals - Revisions**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 762**, which revises the process for setting postsecondary attainment goals in Maryland. By removing specific percentage-based attainment targets from statute and instead empowering the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) to collaborate with institutions to determine appropriate goals, this bill ensures that higher education policy remains adaptive, data-driven, and responsive to Maryland's evolving workforce and economic needs.

Maryland's community colleges play a critical role in providing accessible and affordable pathways to postsecondary education, including associate degrees, certificates, and workforce credentials that align with high-demand industries. Allowing MHEC to work in partnership with higher education segments ensures that degree and credential goals are developed with input from institutions that understand student pathways, transfer trends, and workforce needs. This flexibility will allow Maryland's postsecondary system to set ambitious yet achievable goals that reflect real student success metrics.

MACC appreciates the bill's recognition that degree attainment is not the only measure of success and supports its inclusion of broader goals related to workforce-aligned credentials, research and innovation, and economic development. By taking a collaborative and comprehensive approach, Maryland can continue strengthening its higher education system without locking institutions into rigid, one-size-fits-all targets.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 762**.

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