
House Appropriations Committee
February 4, 2025

HB 473 – Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program - Revisions

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 473**, which expands eligibility under the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship Program. The bill ensures that part-time degree-seeking students can access the scholarship for up to six years rather than being restricted to the three-year timeframe applicable to full-time students. Additionally, the legislation clarifies that students enrolled in noncredit workforce training, registered apprenticeship programs, and courses leading to licensure or certification are eligible for Promise funding, reinforcing community colleges' role as essential providers of career training and economic mobility.

The Promise Scholarship is a transformative resource for Maryland's community colleges, helping to make higher education more affordable and accessible. Expanding eligibility to part-time students acknowledges the realities that many of our students face—balancing work, family, and education. This change will allow more Marylanders to complete their degrees and workforce credentials without losing financial support simply because they cannot enroll full-time.

As the state continues to invest in workforce development and higher education accessibility, this bill represents a critical step in ensuring that all Marylanders have the opportunity to succeed. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 473**.

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