

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 5, 2025

SB 690 – Higher Education - Scholarships for Correctional Officers**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 690**, which expands the Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include correctional officers. This change acknowledges the vital role correctional officers play in Maryland's public safety system and ensures they have the same access to financial assistance as other law enforcement professionals.

Community colleges serve as key training providers for Maryland's public safety workforce, offering affordable, high-quality education that prepares students for careers in law enforcement, probation, and corrections. Expanding this scholarship program ensures that correctional officers, like police officers and probation agents, can pursue the education and training necessary to succeed in their field without financial barriers.

Maryland's correctional system relies on highly skilled professionals to ensure safety, security, and rehabilitation within facilities across the State. By making higher education more accessible to correctional officers, SB 690 strengthens the workforce pipeline for these essential roles and helps attract and retain dedicated professionals in a challenging and critical field.

Expanding scholarship eligibility is a practical investment in Maryland's public safety infrastructure, supporting both new students entering the profession and current professionals seeking to advance their careers. Ensuring access to education for correctional officers will enhance training, improve job readiness, and contribute to safer communities statewide. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 690**.

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