

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
March 5, 2025

**SB 435 - Institutions of Higher Education and Elementary and Secondary Schools - Title VI  
Coordinators (Remove Discrimination in Education Act)**

**Position: Unfavorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, respectfully opposes **SB 435**. This legislation requires all community colleges to designate a Title VI Coordinator to oversee compliance with federal civil rights laws, investigate complaints, and provide training on anti-discrimination policies. While MACC fully supports the intention behind this bill and the importance of ensuring compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, there are substantial concerns about the financial and administrative burden this requirement places on community colleges.

Community colleges already employ staff who oversee compliance with federal and state civil rights laws, including Title VI. However, at many institutions, these responsibilities are assigned to individuals who manage multiple areas, including Title IX, student conduct, and equity initiatives. Requiring a designated Title VI Coordinator as a standalone role creates a large financial challenge for institutions that must balance compliance obligations with limited resources.

MACC appreciates the intent of this legislation and supports many efforts to promote equity and protect students from discrimination. However, we encourage a thoughtful approach that considers the existing structures in place at community colleges. We look forward to working with the sponsor to explore solutions that ensure compliance while maintaining flexibility for institutions. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **UNFAVORABLE** vote on **SB 435**, as written.

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