
House Judiciary Committee

January 28, 2025

**HB 289 - Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services - Incarcerated
Individual Apprenticeship Program**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 289**. This bill focuses on creating opportunities for individuals in prison to learn trade skills and serve as a paid apprentice by establishing the Incarcerated Individual Apprenticeship Program within the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

MACC supports this legislation as many apprenticeship programs lead to industry-recognized credentials or certifications that enhance participants' employability and advancement opportunities. Community colleges believe that with hands-on experience and mentorship, apprentices develop the skills and knowledge needed to excel in their roles, ultimately contributing to the safety and well-being of Maryland's communities.

By providing incarcerated individuals with marketable job skills, this bill may also assist in reducing the likelihood that individuals will re-offend after release. This aligns with the community college's broader goals of promoting education as a pathway to social and economic mobility. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 289**.

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