

House Appropriations Committee

April 8, 2026

SB 534 - Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training Requirements

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, strongly opposes **SB 534**, as amended. While the bill has been modified, it continues to impose unnecessary and prescriptive statutory requirements on a single community college that are more appropriately addressed through local governance and existing law.

Frederick Community College already has policies and practices in place that support public engagement, transparency, and board development. The amended bill acknowledges and seeks to "supplement" these existing efforts, underscoring that the legislation is not addressing a gap in practice, but rather codifying processes that are already functioning effectively at the institutional level. As such, the bill remains unnecessary.

Community college boards of trustees are appointed governing bodies responsible for establishing policies and practices that support the effective governance of their institutions. These boards operate under existing State transparency requirements, including the Maryland Open Meetings Act, and already have the authority to determine appropriate procedures related to public comment, meeting recordings, and board training. Mandating these processes in statute for a single institution undermines the principle of local governance and sets an unhelpful precedent for future piecemeal policymaking.

The bill also continues to impose ongoing administrative requirements, including recording and maintaining meetings in perpetuity and posting recordings within a specified timeframe. While these requirements may appear minor, they create operational obligations that should remain within the discretion of the institution and its governing board, which are best positioned to determine appropriate and sustainable practices. Community colleges across Maryland regularly adopt policies that reflect the needs and expectations of their local communities. Matters such as public comment, meeting procedures, and governance training are appropriately determined at the institutional level, allowing boards to remain responsive, flexible, and aligned with best practices in governance and accreditation.

MACC supports strong governance, transparency, and public engagement. However, SB 534 continues to impose unnecessary statutory mandates on a single college in an area that is already effectively governed through existing law and institutional practice. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on **SB 534**.

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