

**House Appropriations Committee**

March 25, 2026

**SB 285 - Higher Education - Scholarships for Correctional Officers****Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 285**. This bill expands eligibility for the existing Maryland Police Officers and Probation Agents Scholarship Program to include correctional officers and renames the program accordingly, allowing correctional officers to access the same tuition assistance and service obligation structure already in place for similarly situated public safety professionals.

Maryland's community colleges play a central role in educating and training the State's public safety workforce, including individuals pursuing careers in corrections, law enforcement, and probation and parole services. Extending scholarship eligibility to correctional officers recognizes the important role they play in maintaining public safety and provides meaningful educational support for individuals seeking to enter or advance within this critical field.

SB 285 builds on an existing and well-established scholarship framework rather than creating a new program, ensuring that correctional officers are held to the same eligibility and service requirements as current participants. By broadening access to this program in a targeted and responsible manner, the bill strengthens Maryland's public safety workforce pipeline while promoting educational opportunity and career advancement. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 285**.

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