

House Appropriations Committee

April 8, 2026

SB 657 - Legislative Scholarship Programs - Eligibility and Use - Real Estate Appraisal Program

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 657**. Establishing the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) Grant Program will expand access to a professional field that plays a critical role in housing markets and property valuation across the State.

Maryland's community colleges frequently serve as the entry point for individuals pursuing professional licensure and career pathways that require specialized coursework, certifications, or training programs. These institutions provide accessible and affordable educational opportunities for students seeking to enter the workforce quickly while developing industry-recognized skills.

The PAREA Grant Program helps remove financial barriers for individuals seeking to enter the real estate appraisal profession, particularly for those living in historically redlined neighborhoods and underrepresented communities. Expanding access to these career opportunities supports both workforce development and broader efforts to strengthen fairness and transparency within the appraisal profession.

By helping more individuals access training and licensure opportunities, SB 657 strengthens the pipeline of qualified professionals while promoting greater diversity within the field. Community colleges are well-positioned to support these pathways through coursework, continuing education, and workforce training programs that prepare students for licensure and long-term career advancement. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 657**.

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