

House Appropriations Committee

April 8, 2026

SB 101 - Higher Education - Loan Repayment and Scholarships for Correctional Officers

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 101**. This bill expands eligibility for existing State loan repayment and scholarship programs to include correctional officers, recognizing their important role in Maryland's public safety workforce and supporting their access to higher education and career advancement.

Maryland's community colleges educate and train many students pursuing careers in corrections and related public safety fields, as well as individuals already employed in these professions who seek additional credentials or degrees. Correctional officers often juggle demanding work schedules with family responsibilities while pursuing education, and access to financial aid can be a key factor in their ability to enroll and complete postsecondary programs. Expanding these programs for correctional officers helps reduce financial barriers and supports ongoing professional development within the corrections workforce.

Expanding eligibility for these programs also supports recruitment and retention efforts in correctional facilities by offering educational incentives that encourage long-term service and workforce stability. SB 101 builds on well-established scholarship and loan repayment structures and extends them in a manner consistent with current State policy. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 101**.

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