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**House Appropriations Committee**

February 10, 2026

**HB 538 – Institutions of Higher Education – Mandatory Disclosures for New and Prospective Students (Information Enrollment Act)**

**Position: Favorable with Amendments**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, supports the goal of transparency and providing students with clear, accessible information to help inform decisions about affordability, educational pathways, and career outcomes. Accurate public data is critical to ensuring that students and families can make informed choices about how to invest in their academic and professional futures.

HB 538 requires institutions that admit first-time undergraduate students to provide information on costs, graduation rates, salary outcomes, and debt outcomes. While these measures are intended to support transparency, MACC has concerns about applying these metrics uniformly to community colleges without sufficient context.

In particular, the bill ties institutional success to outcome metrics that do not fully align with the mission of open-access institutions and does not adequately account for equity considerations or student intent. For community colleges, this creates a risk that publicly reported data will be interpreted as a measure of institutional quality without recognizing that many students enroll to transfer, earn short-term workforce credentials, or pursue industry-recognized certifications rather than complete a degree at their starting institution.

Maryland’s community colleges have a strong public mission centered on access and opportunity, serving students who have historically been excluded from postsecondary education. MACC believes transparency is most effective when outcome data is presented in a way that reflects the full range of student pathways and avoids misleading comparisons between institutions with fundamentally different missions and student populations. While MACC supports providing students with meaningful and accurate information, the approach in HB 538 would benefit from greater flexibility and context to ensure that transparency efforts enhance, rather than distort, public understanding of community college outcomes. MACC looks forward to working with the sponsor and the Committee on refining this approach so that transparency requirements provide meaningful, contextualized information that supports informed student decision-making at community colleges.

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