

House Economic Matters Committee

March 3, 2026

HB 1473 – Economic Development - Maryland's Future Board - Establishment

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1473** and the establishment of the Maryland's Future Board to develop a long-term, visionary plan for the State's economic growth and prosperity. Maryland's community colleges share the goal of ensuring that the State remains competitive, innovative, and responsive to emerging industries and workforce needs.

Maryland's community colleges play a central role in preparing the State's workforce for emerging and evolving industries, including advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, health care, and other high-demand fields identified in the bill. As open-access institutions serving students in every region of the State, community colleges provide affordable pathways to credentials and degrees that align with employer needs and support economic mobility. Community colleges work closely with local businesses, workforce boards, and State partners to design and deliver training programs that respond quickly to changing labor market demands, providing valuable insight into workforce trends and community needs.

MACC looks forward to working collaboratively with the sponsor, the Department of Commerce, and the General Assembly to ensure that the Maryland's Future Board benefits from the full range of expertise across Maryland's education and workforce ecosystem. To that end, MACC respectfully requests an amendment to include a dedicated representative from Maryland's community colleges on the Board, specifically the MACC Executive Director or their designee. Given the significant role community colleges play in workforce development and regional economic growth, representation from the community college sector would provide important perspective as the Board develops and implements its visionary plan for Maryland's future.

MACC appreciates the opportunity to support this important initiative and looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure that Maryland's future planning efforts reflect the critical role of community colleges in advancing the State's economic strength and opportunity for all residents. For these reasons, MACC respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report **WITH AMENDMENTS** on **HB 1473**.

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