



Testimony to the Senate Education Energy and the Environment Committee
SB383 Higher Education-Private Career Schools-Advertising
Position: Unfavorable

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Senator Feldman, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
cc: Education Energy and the Environment Committee

Honorable Chair Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund writes in opposition to SB383.

In the past decade, the General Assembly has passed multiple pieces of legislation to regulate private career schools and protect prospective students from career schools that offer high costs but low returns. The General Assembly has expanded protections for students interested in private career and for-profit schools to protect them from sudden closures, inappropriate training for licensure in Maryland, and more.

Our 2020 report [Grading For-Profit Schools](#) analyzed how for-profit and private career schools operating in Maryland performed on the basis of debt-to-income, default rates, and instructional spending. The study found that 19 of 36 schools (52%) received a D as their final grade based on their outcomes and only 12 institutions spent more than 50% of tuition revenue on instruction.

Given the high cost of education, it's important that prospective students are able to compare the outcomes of for-profit and private career schools with public institutions. That's why we created a [Know Before You Enroll](#) campaign to allow students to compare schools on key metrics. Past research has shown that advertising by private career and for-profit colleges have provided inaccurate data on graduation and career outcomes. Given the poor track record of the industry, Economic Action Maryland Fund is wary of letting private career schools advertise before they have received a certificate from MHEC.

We understand that there are amendments that are being proffered that may address our concerns. After the amendments are offered and we have a chance to review them, if they ameliorate our concerns we will withdraw our objections.

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At this time, we do not see any reason to allow private career schools to advertise before they receive approval from MHEC.

For these reasons we oppose SB383 and urge an unfavorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

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