

**Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee**  
April 2, 2026

**HB 845 - Higher Education - Student Financial Assistance - Alterations to Scholarship Programs**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 845**. Maryland residents should have equitable access to the State's higher education programs and financial aid opportunities, and scholarship programs should reflect the real circumstances facing students and families across the State.

HB 845 makes important changes to two scholarship programs that help expand access to postsecondary education. First, the bill corrects a unique geographic issue affecting the Town of Delmar by ensuring that Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School, which is physically located in Delaware, remain eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. These students live in Maryland communities, contribute to Maryland's workforce, and should have the same opportunity to access this important program as other Maryland students.

Second, the bill expands the Fallen Transportation Workers Scholarship Program to include surviving transportation workers and additional eligible family members and allows the scholarship to be used for the total cost of attendance at any institution of postsecondary education. These changes recognize the significant impact that serious transportation-related accidents can have on workers and their families and help ensure that eligible students and families have meaningful access to financial assistance as they pursue higher education.

Community colleges serve as a primary pathway to higher education and workforce training for many Maryland students, including those seeking affordable and flexible options close to home. Expanding eligibility and improving access to these scholarship programs supports educational opportunity, workforce development, and economic mobility for students and families across the State. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 845**.

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