

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

February 4, 2026

SB 56 - Higher Education - Scholarships for Correctional Officers

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 56**. This bill authorizes the Maryland Longitudinal Data System (MLDS) Center to share limited student and workforce data with secure third-party data centers for the purpose of multistate research and reporting on student outcomes, subject to strict privacy, security, and oversight requirements.

Maryland's community colleges educate a highly mobile student population, with many students living, working, or continuing their education across state lines. Current data systems are limited in their ability to capture these cross-border education and employment outcomes, which can result in an incomplete picture of how well programs prepare students for the workforce. By allowing participation in multistate data partnerships, SB 56 will help provide a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of how Maryland's community college students progress into further education and employment beyond the State's borders.

Importantly, SB 56 maintains strong safeguards for student privacy and data security. The bill requires that any third-party data center meet or exceed the MLDS Center's security standards, be certified under the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP), limit the use of personally identifiable information to what is necessary for data matching, and ensure that only de-identified and aggregate data are used for analysis and reporting. In addition, all data sharing must be governed by written agreements and subject to annual review and approval by the MLDS Center Governing Board.

For community colleges, access to high-quality multistate outcome data will strengthen program evaluation, workforce alignment, and accountability efforts by allowing institutions and policymakers to better assess the long-term educational and employment outcomes of students. SB 56 provides a responsible and carefully structured framework to support this work while preserving essential privacy protections. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 56**.

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