MACC
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

60 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-974-8117

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

March 11, 2026

SB 534 - Frederick Community College - Board of Trustees - Meeting and Training Requirements

Position: Oppose

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, respectfully opposes **SB 534**. Frederick Community College has already advanced policies that provide training and public comment, therefore this bill is not necessary. Community college boards of trustees are locally appointed governing bodies that are responsible for establishing policies and practices that support the effective governance of their institutions. These boards operate within existing State transparency laws, including the Maryland Open Meetings Act, and already have the authority to establish procedures related to public comment, meeting recordings, and board training.

Community college boards are charged with setting policies that define the mission, goals, and strategic direction of the colleges. While public opinion is welcome and there is a process for establishing appropriate policies, it is done so in a manner that is established by each board in accordance with good governance practices. Accreditation and governance standards reinforce that presidents administer and manage the policies and procedures of the board, and the board governs to maintain a healthy governance culture. Frederick Community College has taken the steps needed to create these policies.

Community colleges across Maryland regularly adopt policies and practices that reflect the needs and expectations of their local communities. Matters such as meeting procedures, opportunities for public participation, board training, and governance practices are appropriately determined at the institutional level by each board of trustees. Maintaining this flexibility allows boards to adopt policies that reflect local priorities while continuing to operate within existing State law.

MACC certainly supports strong governance practices and transparency in the work of community college boards. In fact, many community college boards already provide opportunities for public comment, record meetings, and participate in ongoing governance training as part of their commitment to effective leadership and accountability. However, the requirements outlined in SB 534 address matters that have already been developed by Frederick Community College and can already be implemented through institutional policy and board governance practices without the need for additional statutory mandates. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **UNFAVORABLE** report on **SB 534**.

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