
Senate Finance Committee

March 5, 2026

**SB 867 - Economic Development - Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission -
Alterations**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **SB 867**. Expanding and strengthening the Maryland Aerospace and Technology Commission will enhance the State's ability to compete in high-growth sectors such as space science, space technology, aeronautics, and advanced aerospace manufacturing.

Maryland has long held a leadership position in aerospace and defense-related industries. SB 867 builds on that foundation by broadening the Commission's mission, strengthening its governance structure, and authorizing strategic grantmaking to advance research, commercialization, infrastructure, and workforce training. These tools are essential to sustaining innovation and attracting continued investment into Maryland's aerospace ecosystem.

Maryland's community colleges play a critical role in supporting the aerospace and advanced technology sectors. Community colleges provide workforce training, industry certifications, and degree pathways aligned with employer demand in fields such as engineering technology, cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing, avionics, information systems, and applied sciences. Colleges work closely with regional employers, military installations, federal partners, and workforce boards to ensure that training programs meet evolving industry needs and prepare students for high-skill, high-wage careers.

The bill's explicit recognition of workforce training as an eligible area for grant support reflects an understanding that innovation and talent development must advance together. Aerospace growth depends not only on research and commercialization, but also on a highly skilled technical workforce capable of supporting product development, manufacturing, systems integration, and operations. Community colleges are central to building and sustaining that workforce pipeline.

By strengthening the Commission's strategic planning authority and establishing a dedicated funding stream for grants, SB 867 positions Maryland to deepen its competitiveness in aerospace-related industries while expanding opportunities for residents to access cutting-edge careers. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 867**.

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