

Senate Finance Committee

March 5, 2026

SB 869 - Economic Development - Maryland Workforce Launch Pilot Program - Establishment

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, strongly supports **SB 869**. The Maryland Workforce Launch Pilot Program represents a strategic and forward-thinking approach to economic development that aligns workforce preparation directly with business attraction. This legislation recognizes a fundamental reality: workforce readiness is one of the most powerful tools available to recruit and retain strategic industries. By providing customized, no-cost training through Maryland's community colleges as part of active business recruitment efforts, the State strengthens its competitive position when attracting companies from outside Maryland.

Maryland's community colleges are uniquely positioned to deliver the type of rapid, industry-specific, and scalable training envisioned in this bill. Colleges across the State have extensive experience designing customized training programs in partnership with employers, adapting curriculum quickly to meet emerging skill needs, and delivering instruction that aligns with performance outcomes and wage standards. Community colleges already serve as the State's primary engine for responsive workforce development, particularly in high-growth and strategic industries.

SB 869 builds on that capacity by formally integrating community colleges into the State's business recruitment strategy. The bill appropriately ensures that curriculum developed under the program remains the property of the community college, preserving institutional expertise and allowing the State to leverage training models for future partnerships. The inclusion of performance metrics and reimbursement provisions further demonstrates a thoughtful and accountable approach to economic development investment.

By pairing business attraction efforts with a guaranteed workforce pipeline, Maryland positions itself to compete more effectively for high-quality employers while creating meaningful career opportunities for Maryland residents. This model strengthens the connection between economic development and workforce strategy in a practical and results-driven manner.

MACC looks forward to continued partnership with the Department of Commerce and the General Assembly to ensure successful implementation of this pilot and to evaluate opportunities for expansion. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 869**.

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