

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

April 1, 2026

**HB 1311 - Higher Education – Student Financial Assistance for Incarcerated Individuals –  
Alterations**

**Position: Favorable**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1311**. Maryland’s community colleges play an important role in expanding access to postsecondary education for individuals who are incarcerated and those preparing to return to their communities. Educational programs offered in correctional facilities help individuals build skills, earn credentials, and prepare for successful reentry into the workforce.

House Bill 1311 helps ensure that incarcerated individuals who meet eligibility requirements are able to access available State student financial assistance. By requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing student financial aid and coordinating with the Maryland Higher Education Commission and institutions of higher education, the bill helps remove administrative barriers that may otherwise prevent eligible students from pursuing postsecondary education.

Community colleges already work closely with correctional institutions to provide educational opportunities for incarcerated students. Ensuring that eligible students are able to access State financial aid will help strengthen these programs and support pathways to industry-recognized credentials and degrees.

Expanding access to postsecondary education opportunities supports workforce development, strengthens communities, and helps individuals successfully transition back into the workforce. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1311**.

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