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Appropriations Committee

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Education and Economic Development

Oversight Committee on Personnel



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 598 – Higher Education – Transfer Platform – Established (Transfer with Success Act 2.0)  
House Appropriations Committee  
Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Good afternoon Chair McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, Esteemed Colleagues, it is an honor to serve on this committee and to be before you this afternoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to present legislation that will build upon last's years Transfer with Success Act of 2021. Transfer from Maryland's community colleges to public 4-year institutions is a bipartisan effort that I know every person on this committee supports.

Too many students across the nation are losing credits they have earned at a community college when they transfer to a public 4-year institution. Nationally, almost 40% of students are losing on average twenty-seven credits when they transfer. Last year's Transfer with Success Act focus was to provide transparency in the transfer process for Maryland's students by requiring an institution who accepts a transfer student to specify the reasons why a student's credits were not accepted.

This year's legislation is taking the next step for transfer students by authorizing state support for a truly statewide transfer platform. This legislation will require even further collaboration among Maryland's public institutions, which will help students by supporting a transfer platform that will simplify the process, require institutions to honor the transfer system, and establish a system that keeps students up to date with transfer programs. Students in Maryland should be certain that information provided in the State's transfer and articulation system is up-to-date, accurate, and transferable.

This legislation requires a framework for all institutions to follow regarding evaluations of courses for approval into the transfer system, a timely removal of any credits or courses that are not accurate, so students will not realize after it is too late that the course they expected to transfer was not accepted.

As a result of the State providing the funding needed to support the operations of the transfer platform, students will benefit from being able to establish accounts, save information in the account on their desired transfer programs or courses, compare courses within recommended transfer programs, and access their account through mobile technology. The platform will also provide admissions requirements for students seeking to transfer as well as the ability to provide reverse transfer accountability for students who transfer prior to earning an associate degree.

This legislation will for the first time establish a statewide transfer platform, which will help students reach their academic goals and streamline the transfer process. The Transfer with Success Act 2.0 has the potential to save both the state and the student money by reducing the costs associated with retaking courses in tuition and state operating dollars. And most importantly, it will help improve our State's educational attainment by reducing the time to degree. I urge you once again to provide a favorable report on HB 598.