



Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Testimony Supporting SB 540
Higher Education-Transfer Platform-Established (Transfer With Success Act 2.0)

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Please accept this written testimony in support of SB 540, Transfer With Success Act 2.0.

The higher education transfer process has been challenged for an inordinate amount of time. Some changes in recent years have made a small difference, but only transformational change will help our students. Colleges and universities must use consistent standards and systems to evaluate transfer credits. Although individual institutions take many actions that make transfer a challenge or seamless, a smooth transfer depends on the collective work of higher education institutions because students oftentimes transfer across different institutions.

A challenged transfer system contributes to students wasting their time, money, and talent. Don't we owe it to students to simplify their ability to attain their educational aspirations without wasting their time and money or sacrificing their goals? The impact of insufficient transfer credits extends beyond the student. When students cannot transfer efficiently and do not reach their anticipated degree, taxpayer dollars invested in higher education are wasted. Communities and employers do not get the workforce they need and our economy suffers.

Our students often rely on nonlinear paths to successfully earn a college credential or degree. On their educational journey they concurrently take courses from more than one institution and it is imperative that they can confirm before they register for a class that it will transfer and count toward their intended credential or degree. It is challenging enough for community college students to attend class, work, and take care of families. They should not have to be burdened with navigating an unjust transfer process and system. Higher education institutions can do a much better job with transfer and our students deserve a system that works and is fair and equitable.

The Maryland Higher Education System has a transfer guide and, "The purpose of this guide is to provide students with information to make the process of transferring from one college or university to another--not only from a community college to a four-year college, but from any college to any other in Maryland--an easier one. By following the advice in this guide, you can minimize (and hopefully avoid altogether) any loss of credit during transfer." We need to lead with more than hope for transfer credits, we need action. Thank you for your support and your efforts to improve Maryland community colleges for the benefit of the citizens of the state.

Office of the President

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