

House Ways and Means Committee
February 22, 2024

HB 1087 - Institutions of Higher Education - Online Gambling - Prohibition

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1087** with amendments. MACC appreciates the good intention of ensuring students are focused on academics while on campus, however, respectfully urges an amendment to address fiscal and enforcement concerns within the bill.

MACC believes that mandating community colleges to bear the fiscal and enforcement burden of this bill is not the most effective or feasible approach. As the Committee is aware, Maryland's community colleges are extremely concerned with proposed cuts to Cade funding and could face extreme fiscal challenges moving forward. This bill would unintentionally add to that burden and would not effectively block gambling sites as institutions do not control cellular networks.

Again, MACC respectfully urges an amendment to reassign the responsibility of implementing this bill to another entity, such as vendors, casinos, or telecommunications providers. These entities possess the technical expertise and resources necessary to implement and maintain robust geofencing systems, such as those reflected in the proposed bill. They are also better suited to ensure adherence to privacy laws, telecommunications regulations, and other pertinent statutes, thereby mitigating potential legal risks associated with the implementation.

Maryland community colleges support the laudable goal of this legislation. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** vote on **HB 1087** with **AMENDMENTS** to reassign the implementation and enforcement responsibilities.

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