



Ways and Means Committee

February 17, 2011

Submitted by

Maryland Association of Community Colleges
H. Clay Whitlow, Executive Director

HB 104 – Higher Education – Community Colleges – Tuition Waiver for Disabled Individuals

POSITION: Support with Amendment

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges, on behalf of the sixteen community colleges and the students we serve offers the following amendment to HB 104:

(5) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THIS EXEMPTION, AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL SUBMIT A TIMELY REQUEST FOR ANY APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID IN THE FORM OF GRANTS. ANY FINANCIAL AID RECEIVED BY THE STUDENT WILL BE APPLIED FIRST AGAINST THE TUITION. THE WAIVER UNDER THIS EXEMPTION WILL APPLY TO THE DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE TUITION AND THE FINANCIAL AID AWARD, IF ANY.

Explanation: HB 104 expands to the category of persons eligible for the tuition waiver by changing the words “retired from” the workforce in section (c) to “OUT OF” the workforce. The language change means that disabled persons who have never worked are now eligible for the waiver. Rather than oppose the expansion of the waiver, MACC proposed to try and mitigate the cost of the waiver by requiring the student to seek appropriate state and federal grants, such as the Pell Grant. Any financial aid award would then be applied to the tuition and charge and any remaining balance waived. This amendment does not cost the student anything and provides potential revenue to the colleges.

MACC urges a favorable recommendation on the amendment.