



Written Support

House Appropriations Committee *House Bill 1244 Maryland Higher Education Commission – Academic Program Approval and Institutional Mission Statements – Requirements*

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On behalf of the member institutions of the Maryland Independent College and University Association (MICUA) and the nearly 55,000 students we serve, I thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony in support of [House Bill 1244 Maryland Higher Education Commission – Academic Program Approval and Institutional Mission Statements – Requirements](#). This bill makes substantive improvements to Maryland’s academic program approval process and transforms it for the better.

MICUA appreciates the leadership of the bill sponsor, who co-chaired the workgroup that made the recommendations which serve as the foundational components in House Bill 1244. Maryland’s academic program approval process needed reform. The workgroup met throughout 2023, hearing from experts and exploring the numerous components of the program approval process.

MICUA was a workgroup member and is thankful for the contributions of the other members and for the collaborative and consensus-based approach that the co-chairs took to guide the workgroup. The recommendations embodied in House Bill 1244 will result in a more predictable and less contentious process, rooted in the need for institutions of higher education to create programs that meet the State’s workforce needs. House Bill 1244 will also ensure that the Maryland Higher Education Commission’s (MHEC) new regulations will provide additional clarity for all the entities that participate in the program approval process. MICUA looks forward to continuing to collaborate with MHEC and the other segments of higher education through the Program Review Process Advisory Council established in House Bill 1244.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Irnande Altema, Associate Vice President for Government and Business Affairs, ialtema@micua.org.

For all of these reasons, MICUA requests a favorable Committee report for House Bill 1244.