



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

SENATE BILL 458 – SUPPORT

Higher Education – Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel, Spouses, and Dependents – Alterations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 12, 2020

The Maryland Military Coalition is a **nonprofit, all volunteer, Veterans advocacy group** representing the interests of Maryland Veterans, Service members, and their Families. Our alliance consists of sixteen organizations, listed on the following page, with over 100,000 members. We represent about one-fourth of Maryland's Veterans.

The Maryland Military Coalition strongly supports Senate Bill 458.

As you know, this bill allows the dependent of an active duty service member to retain Maryland resident status for tuition when the active duty service member no longer meets the State residency requirement in the period between the acceptance to a public institution of higher education and enrollment.

Thus, the bill affects the dependents of active duty service members who are reassigned to another state after the dependent has been accepted but before enrolling in a public institution of higher education. Clearly, active duty service members often have little control over the timing or location of their assignments.

“Out of State” or non-resident tuition is often several times higher than that of “in-state” tuition. A change in the status before enrollment places the student in a situation where they must find another college at the last minute or pay higher tuition.

Maryland can alleviate this stressor on the family by allowing the dependent of the active duty service member of the armed forces who is assigned to duty out-of-state, and has received a letter of acceptance, to be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees at all state institutions of higher learning as long as the dependent enrolls and remains continuously enrolled.

The Maryland Military Coalition believes that we should allow the dependent of an active duty service member of the armed forces who is assigned out-of-state, and has received a letter of acceptance, to be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees as long as the dependent remains continuously enrolled in the institution of higher learning.

The Maryland Military Coalition **requests a favorable report for Senate Bill 458.**

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact me at
BTSmith1184@outlook.com or by calling 703.623.3678

Member Organizations, Maryland Military Coalition

James P. Monahan
Air Force Sergeants Association

Stacy P. May
American Military Society

Lynn A. Nash
Commissioned Officers Association of the
US Public Health Service

Wilbert B. Forbes
Disabled American Veterans

Sheldon Goldberg
Distinguished Flying Cross Association

Pleasala J. Collins
Fleet Reserve Association

Evan A. Buttrick
Jewish War Veterans of the USA

Steve L. Bloodgood
Maryland Air National Guard Retirees'
Association

Harvey Kaplan
Military Officers Association of America

Charles Egbert
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Mervyn Rice
National Association for Black Veterans

Michael P. Hays
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Christian Andreasen
NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers

Catherine L. McGraw
Society of Military Widows

Arthur L. Cooper
The Retired Enlisted Association

Thomas C. Williams
Veterans of Foreign Wars