

DSLO_Regional Liaison_Cooney_FAV_SB458

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MANPOWER AND
RESERVE AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1500 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-1500

February 11, 2020

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Chair
Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB458 – Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel,
Spouses, and Dependents - Alterations

Chair Pinsky and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of military families and the Department of Defense, I am writing in support of policy changes proposed in SB 458, a bill that addresses residency requirements for attendance at post-secondary public institutions for the purpose of tuition.

My name is Harold Cooney and I am the Northeast Regional Liaison for the Defense-State Liaison Office, operating under the direction of Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy. Our mission is to serve as a resource to state policymakers as they work to address quality of life issues for military families.

In many states, students with a military sponsor stationed in a state are considered in-state residents, for tuition purposes, based on when the student was “enrolled”, rather than when the student was “accepted” to the university or college. Thus, if the sponsor retires, leaves the service, or transfers out-of-state between the time that the student receives the letter of acceptance and enrolls to start classes, the student can lose their in-state status. It is the current terminology within Maryland policy that confuses the issue by limiting the policy benefit to the time of enrollment versus the time of acceptance. This bill simply alleviates that confusion.

Approximately 185,000 U.S. military children move between schools annually and are routinely reassigned with their military sponsors to new duty stations in the summer, due to mission and training requirements. As a result of these summer moves, students typically miss important education application dates that occur in the spring. We believe that a spouse or child of an active member of the armed forces assigned to duty in a state at the time of the dependent receiving a letter of acceptance should be deemed an in-state resident for purposes of determining tuition and fees, regardless of the service member’s follow-on status.

Considering there are over 90,000 college aged military children, we have placed this issue in our “Top Ten” list of prioritized Personnel and Readiness issues. Currently 16 states have incorporated language and 7 states have introduced bills with policy language to address this issue. We ask that Maryland consider this helpful policy language change, as well.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts that Maryland has historically made to support our military members and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to support the policy reflected in SB 458, and are especially grateful to Senator Elfreth for introducing this important piece of legislation. Thank you for taking the time to consider this issue. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,



Harold E. Cooney
Northeast Regional Liaison
Defense-State Liaison Office
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Military Community and Family Policy)

CC: Senator Sarah Elfreth

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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

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

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STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 458
HIGHER EDUCATION – NONRESIDENT TUITION EXEMPTION for
MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPOUSES and DEPENDENTS – ALTERATIONS

Chairman Guzzone, Vice Chairman Rosapepe and distinguished members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, The American Legion Department of Maryland representing over 48,000 active duty, veteran members soundly believe Senate Bill 458 is a viable legislative initiative benefitting our servicemen and women and their family dependents, their future employers and our State.

SSB 458 if passed and signed into law would eliminate a significant burden for dependent spouses and children. For instance, normal or In-State tuition costs for nearby Anne Arundel Community College are **Four Thousand Two Hundred Eighty dollars annually (\$4,280.00)** annually. For a student deemed to be in an Out-of-State category, tuition is **Twelve Thousand, Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$12,650.00)** Fees such as these would practically eliminate a student from attending or require significant and. Perhaps, threatening dangerous sacrifices in order to attend, especially on a single household income at, in some situations, historically low military salaries. (Data from *Fiscal and Policy Note* Source: Maryland Association of Community Colleges)

This measure is advantageous to the employer market. Once graduated or certificated the beneficiaries of SB 458 would broaden the pool of prospective prospects because they are better educated and have advanced skills, especially over someone who has not taken advantage of higher education options.

There may be some who will state this bill would be too costly for educational facilities. In the same *Fiscal and Policy Note* it notes that “the almost 1,200 spouses and dependent children of active-duty service members, approximately 100 (less than 10%) were considered out-of-state residents for tuition purposes.”

We will conclude by respectfully requesting for a favorable report on SB 458 and commend Senator Elfreth and the bipartisan group of sponsors supporting this vital bill.

Yours, respectfully

Patrick Guibao

Patrick J. Guibao

Chair

THE AMERICAN LEGION
Department of Maryland
Legislative Commission

Senator Elfreth_FAV_SB0458

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SENATOR SARAH ELFRETH
Legislative District 30
Anne Arundel County

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

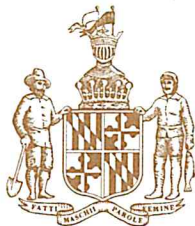
Education, Business and Administration

Chair, Pensions

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 12, 2019

Testimony in Favor of SB458
Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition Exemption for Military Personnel, Spouses, and Dependents - Alterations

Chairman Pinsky, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

I respectfully request a favorable report of Senate Bill 458. This small bill would clarify the law to ensure that Spouses and Dependents who qualified for in-state tuition when their service member lived in Maryland continue to have that benefit if their sponsor is reassigned out of state.

Maryland has over 30,000 active duty service members in our State, though many of these service members have little to no say as to their reassignments. If a spouse or a dependent of a service member is accepted at the in-state tuition rate, but the sponsoring veteran is forced to move out of State, then this in-state tuition rate is lost. Furthermore, this bill also provides the in-state rate as long as they remain continuously enrolled.

This bill fixes this problem by allowing dependents and spouses, who qualified for in-state tuition while here, to retain that rate even if the veteran is re-assigned. The fiscal note is zero because these dependents and spouses have already received the in-state rate. This bill is supported by the Department of Defense, the Maryland Military Coalition, and the American Legion.

Once again I ask for a favorable committee report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Elfreth'.

Sarah Elfreth