

HOUSE BILL 534

F1
HB 184/25 – W&M

6lr1583

By: **Delegates Smith, Acevero, Amprey, Coley, Conaway, Davis, J. Long, Ruff, Toles, and Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Nonpublic Schools – Transcripts – Prohibition on Punitive Measures Related to**
3 **Student Debt**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting nonpublic schools that participate in State-funded
5 education programs from refusing to issue a transcript to a current or former student
6 or the student’s parent or guardian or taking other punitive measures regarding a
7 student’s transcript request because the student owes a debt to the nonpublic school;
8 and generally relating to the issuance of transcripts by nonpublic schools.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–118

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–118.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **(2) (I) “DEBT” MEANS ANY MONEY, OBLIGATION, CLAIM, OR SUM**
 2 **DUE OR OWED BY A STUDENT OR FORMER STUDENT TO A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.**

3 **(II) “DEBT” DOES NOT INCLUDE THE FEE, IF ANY, CHARGED TO**
 4 **A STUDENT FOR THE ACTUAL COSTS OF PROVIDING A TRANSCRIPT.**

5 **(3) “NONPUBLIC SCHOOL” MEANS A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE**
 6 **STATE THAT PARTICIPATES IN STATE–FUNDED EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**

7 **(4) “STUDENT” INCLUDES CURRENT STUDENTS AND FORMER**
 8 **STUDENTS OF A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.**

9 **(B) A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MAY NOT:**

10 **(1) REFUSE TO ISSUE A TRANSCRIPT TO A STUDENT OR THE PARENT**
 11 **OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT BECAUSE THE STUDENT OWES A DEBT;**

12 **(2) CONDITION THE ISSUANCE OF A TRANSCRIPT ON THE PAYMENT**
 13 **OF A DEBT;**

14 **(3) CHARGE A HIGHER FEE FOR OBTAINING A TRANSCRIPT BECAUSE**
 15 **THE STUDENT OWES A DEBT;**

16 **(4) PROVIDE LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT OF A TRANSCRIPT**
 17 **REQUEST BECAUSE A STUDENT OWES A DEBT; OR**

18 **(5) USE TRANSCRIPT ISSUANCE AS A TOOL OF DEBT COLLECTION.**

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
 20 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.