

HOUSE BILL 1311

F2, E5

6lr2293

By: **Delegates Embry, Coley, Lehman, Pasteur, Simpson, and Taveras**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026

Assigned to: Appropriations and Government, Labor, and Elections

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Higher Education – Student Financial Assistance for Incarcerated Individuals –**
3 **Alterations**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
5 to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing certain student financial assistance;
6 requiring incarcerated individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for certain
7 student financial assistance to have access to student financial assistance; and
8 generally relating to student financial assistance for incarcerated individuals.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

10 Article – Correctional Services

11 Section 2–701 to be under the amended subtitle “Subtitle 7. Federal and State
12 Student Financial Assistance Access and Postsecondary Education Program
13 Tracking Systems”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 18–116

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Correctional Services**

24 Subtitle 7. Federal **[Pell Grants]** AND STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

25 Access and Postsecondary Education Program Tracking Systems.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2-701.

2 (a) The Department shall assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell
3 Grants **AND STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** for higher education.

4 (b) In order to assist incarcerated individuals in accessing federal Pell Grants
5 **AND STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**, the Department shall consult with **THE**
6 **MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION AND** institutions of higher education,
7 including:

8 (1) all University System of Maryland institutions;

9 (2) Morgan State University;

10 (3) Anne Arundel Community College;

11 (4) Hagerstown Community College;

12 (5) Wor-Wic Community College; and

13 (6) Goucher College.

14 **Article – Education**

15 **18-116.**

16 **STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS TITLE SHALL BE**
17 **AVAILABLE TO INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**
18 **FOR THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**

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