

# HOUSE BILL 1311

F2, E5

6lr2293

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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

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 8, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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:

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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.



**Article – Correctional Services**

Subtitle 7. Federal [Pell Grants] **AND STATE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**  
Access and Postsecondary Education Program Tracking Systems.

2–701.

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

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

(1) all University System of Maryland institutions;

(2) Morgan State University;

(3) Anne Arundel Community College;

(4) Hagerstown Community College;

(5) Wor–Wic Community College; and

(6) Goucher College.

**Article – Education**

**18–116.**

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

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