

HOUSE BILL 1313

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6lr2612

By: **Delegates Embry, Lehman, Pasteur, 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 – Tuition Exemption – Incarcerated Individuals**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that incarcerated individuals are exempt, subject to
4 certain conditions, from paying tuition at public institutions of higher education in
5 the State; and generally relating to a tuition exemption for incarcerated individuals.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Education

8 Section 15–106.12

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 **15–106.12.**

15 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
16 **INDICATED.**

17 **(2) “INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
18 **1–101 OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ARTICLE.**

19 **(3) (I) “TUITION” MEANS THE CHARGES IMPOSED BY A PUBLIC**
20 **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ENROLLMENT AT THE INSTITUTION.**

21 **(II) “TUITION” INCLUDES CHARGES FOR REGISTRATION AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 ALL FEES REQUIRED AS A CONDITION OF ENROLLMENT IN CREDIT-BEARING AND
2 NONCREDIT COURSES OFFERED DURING THE FALL, WINTER, SPRING, OR SUMMER
3 TERM.

4 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, AN
5 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL IS EXEMPT FROM PAYING ANY TUITION AT A PUBLIC
6 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE REGARDLESS OF THE
7 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S RECEIPT OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP OR GRANT.

8 (C) (1) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION, AN
9 INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL SHALL SUBMIT A TIMELY APPLICATION FOR ANY STATE
10 OR FEDERAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN, FOR WHICH
11 THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL MAY QUALIFY.

12 (2) ANY STUDENT FINANCIAL AID, OTHER THAN A STUDENT LOAN,
13 RECEIVED BY THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE APPLIED FIRST TO PAY
14 THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL'S TUITION.

15 (3) THE EXEMPTION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE
16 DIFFERENCE, IF ANY, BETWEEN THE CHARGE FOR TUITION AND THE FINANCIAL AID
17 AWARD, NOT INCLUDING A STUDENT LOAN, THAT THE INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL
18 RECEIVES.

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