



SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

February 4, 2020

TESTIMONY

**Submitted by
Dr. Bernard Sadusky, Executive Director
Maryland Association of Community Colleges**

SB 318 – Higher Education – Nonresident Tuition – Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans

Position: Support with Amendments

On behalf of the Maryland Association of Community Colleges, representing Maryland’s 16 community colleges we want to thank the Sponsor for working with us to offer an amendment that allows the spouses and dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans who benefit from this legislation to be counted for State support under the Cade and BCCC funding formulas.

In addition, we offer the following amendment that recently came to our attention from our colleges:

(A) IN THIS SECTION, ‘NONRESIDENT TUITION’ MEANS OUT-OF-STATE TUITION.

Without this amendment, community college would lose the difference between the out-of-county rate and the in-county rate. Below are these rates averaged for the colleges:

Tuition per Credit Hour – Statewide Average

In service area	\$124
Out of service area	\$223
Out of state	\$311

Rationale: Community colleges set tuition at 3 different rates; an in-service area rate, an out-of-service area rate, and an out-of-state rate. The reason is that if a student is a resident of the county that the community college serves, the student will pay the lowest tuition rate benefiting from county support as well as State support. If a student is from a different service area but still resides in- Maryland, tuition is higher because the county doesn’t support a student that does not pay local taxes. And lastly, out-of-state tuition is highest because the student is not supported by either local or state funding.

Therefore, when tuition costs are waived for nonresidents, our institutions forgo the ability to receive the full cost for educating that student. Consequently, the colleges have no choice but to raise tuition for all students to make up the difference. That causes a litany of other problems such as making it more difficult for low-income and high-risk students from either being able to go full-time to not being able to attend at all. While we realize that the number of individuals affected by this legislation may be relatively small; however, each year more and more tuition waivers are introduced without adding a funding source. As a result of the cumulative impact of tuition waivers, compiled, they drive up the tuition costs for all students.

With this amendment along with the sponsor's amendment, community colleges support this legislation that will assist our honorably discharges veterans and their families.