



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 318 - Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans

SPONSOR: Senators Elfreth, Bailey, Edwards, Peters, and Salling

HEARING DATE: February 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 318 - Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of Honorably Discharged Veterans**, which expands eligibility for in-state tuition to encompass a spouse and a financially dependent child of an honorably discharged veteran any time after the veteran's discharge, if the veteran resides or is domiciled in the State.

Under current law, a spouse or financially dependent child of a veteran living in the State must live here for at least 12-months to qualify for in-state tuition at a public four-year institution and three-months for a community college. While both active duty members of the armed forces and honorably discharged veterans living in the state immediately qualify for in-state tuition, only the spouses and dependent children of active duty members currently immediately qualify. This bill allows the spouses and financially dependent children of an honorably discharged veteran to bypass the residency requirement and immediately qualify for in-state tuition as long as the veteran resides or is domiciled in the State.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 318** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.