



Testimony in Support of House Bill 0792 entitled “Sales and Use Tax- Tax-Free Periods – University and College Textbooks” at the 2021 Maryland General Assembly

Written Testimony from the University System of Maryland Student Council
February 8, 2021

The University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) represents over 172,000 students across 12 higher education institutions and three regional centers. The USMSC works to collectively listen and identify the concerns most relevant to our student constituents. Of perennial importance is the affordability and financial access to higher education. Required textbooks for coursework can amount to hundreds of dollars annually and every effort to mitigate this less understood and unanticipated costs is welcomed.

We thank Delegate Anderton for sponsoring HB0792 which speaks to tangible actions that can relieve some financial burden on students and their families. The estimate is about \$40/annually which could be repurposed towards other essential items students have to procure. HB0792 would extend tax relief during the beginning of both the fall and spring academic terms to the purchasing of textbooks. We view this legislation as a win-win and a “no-brainer” for helping students across the many HEI options in the state of Maryland.

The USMSC membership voted in overwhelming support of the proposed bill and hope the bill receives a favorable vote in the MGA this year.

Sincerely,

The USMSC Student Council, representing student leadership from:

*Bowie State University
Coppin State University
Frostburg State University
Salisbury University
The Universities at Shady Grove
Towson University
University of Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
University of Maryland Eastern Shore
University of Maryland Global Campus*