



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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TO: Senator Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl C. Kagan, Vice Chair
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: January 21, 2025
RE: SB 268- Higher Education- Undocumented Students-
Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

The MLLC SB268 - Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation that improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a crucial voice in the development of public policy that uplifts the Latino community and benefits the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of SB268.

According to data from the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, first and second-generation immigrant students comprise nearly 40% of all students enrolled in higher education in the State.¹ However, among Latinos ages 18 to 34, only 19% are enrolled in higher education.² A primary systemic barrier to accessing higher education is the exorbitant costs, especially when students who reside in the state do not qualify for in-state tuition.

To eliminate barriers, this bill decreases the number of years (from 3-years to 2-years) an individual or individual's parents or guardian must file taxes before an academic year to be eligible for the out-of-state tuition exemption associated with tuition at public institutions of higher education. By accelerating the eligibility qualification for out-of-state tuition exemptions, this bill expands access to affordable education for Latino and immigrant students across the State.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on SB268.

¹ [Higher Ed Immigration Portal](#)

² [Excelencia in Education](#)