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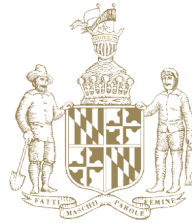
Health Committee

Subcommittees

Elder and Long-Term Care

Maternal, Infant, and Child Health

Public Health and
Minority Health Disparities



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2026

Appropriations Committee
Chair Ben Barnes
Vice-Chair Anne Kaiser
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Teresa Woorman representing District 16. Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1530 – Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility.

The intent of this legislation is to remove an unnecessary documentation barrier that prevents some students who grew up and were educated in Maryland from accessing the in-state tuition rate at our public colleges and universities. These are students who attended Maryland schools, graduated from Maryland high schools, and built their lives in our communities.

Under Maryland's Dream Act law, certain undocumented students may qualify for in-state tuition if they meet several requirements tied to their education and ties to the state, not their immigration status.

However, current law requires that a student or the student's parent provide three years of Maryland income tax returns to demonstrate eligibility. In practice, that documentation requirement has proven difficult to meet for some otherwise eligible students and does not always accurately reflect a student's ties to Maryland.

As introduced, HB1530 repeals the three-year tax filing requirement. However, we will be offering an amendment that modifies this approach. Instead of removing the requirement entirely, the amendment reduces the requirement from three years of tax filings to one year.

The goal is to align the documentation requirement with what most U.S. citizens and permanent residents are typically required to provide to financial aid offices when verifying residency for in-state tuition. In many cases, colleges rely on one year of tax documentation or other standard residency documentation when determining eligibility.

In other words, the amendment ensures that students covered by this policy are asked to provide the same level of documentation that other students typically provide when establishing residency for tuition purposes.

It is also important to note that all other eligibility requirements under Maryland law remain in place. Students must still:

- Attend a Maryland public or nonpublic secondary school
- Graduate from a Maryland high school or receive a Maryland GED
- Enroll in a Maryland public institution of higher education within six years of graduation
- Submit an affidavit stating they will apply for permanent residency when eligible
- Comply with Selective Service registration requirements where applicable

These requirements ensure the policy continues to apply to students who were raised and educated in Maryland and who have strong ties to our state.

By adjusting the documentation requirement to one year and allowing institutions to verify residency using the same types of documentation they already review for other students, the bill maintains oversight while making the process more consistent with how residency is typically verified in higher education.

Ultimately, this legislation ensures that students who grew up in Maryland and were educated in our schools are not prevented from accessing higher education because of a documentation requirement that goes beyond what most other students are asked to provide.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1530.

Thank you for your time and consideration.