



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

ASHANTI MARTINEZ, CHAIR

GABRIEL ACEVERO, VICE-CHAIR

DENI TAVERAS, TREASURER

JOE VOGEL, SECRETARY

JASON A. AVILA GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair
Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee Members
FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus
DATE: 03/09/2026
RE: HB1530 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students -
Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

The MLLC supports HB1530 - 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 HB1530.

Accessing higher education in the United States is a burdensome administrative process, particularly for first-generation college students. Students must submit various amounts of paperwork to access financial aid and in Maryland, this burden is even greater for undocumented students attempting to attend a higher education institution. In Maryland, there are approximately 3,000 undocumented immigrants graduating from high school each year.¹ Currently, Maryland law allows certain undocumented students who graduate from Maryland high schools to access in-state tuition rates if they meet statutory requirements, yet certain administrative requirements can delay, or even dissuade, students from enrollment. By removing the multi-year tax filing prerequisite and allowing alternative documentation to demonstrate residency for continued eligibility, this bill reduces administrative barriers and expands access to affordable higher education for Maryland-educated immigrant students.

The urgency of this reform has grown significantly in the current climate. The Internal Revenue Service and immigration authorities now have a data-sharing agreement, causing some undocumented immigrants to fear that submitting tax returns will expose them to the risk of detention and deportation.² As a result, the existing tax filing requirement does not merely impose an administrative inconvenience, it forces Maryland's immigrant students to choose between pursuing a college education and protecting their families from potential immigration enforcement. HB 1530 recognizes that reality and ensures the promise of affordable higher education is not conditioned on documentation that puts vulnerable families at risk.

For these reasons, the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus respectfully requests a favorable report on HB1530.

¹ [President's Alliance: Immigrant-Origin Students in U.S. Higher Education](#)

² [Economic Policy Institute: Taxpayer Information Agreement](#)