

House Appropriations Committee

March 11, 2026

HB 1530 - Higher Education - Undocumented Students - Out-of-State Tuition Exemption Eligibility

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 1530**. Community colleges are built on the principle of expanding access to higher education. Maryland's community colleges serve students from all backgrounds and life circumstances and provide affordable pathways to workforce training, certificates, associate degrees, and transfer opportunities to four-year institutions. Our colleges proudly serve many immigrant and first-generation students who are working to build their futures and contribute to the communities they call home.

House Bill 1530 removes the requirement that a student or the student's parent or guardian provide documentation demonstrating that Maryland income taxes were filed for a specified period in order to qualify for an out-of-state tuition exemption. While the existing requirement was intended to demonstrate a connection to the State, in practice it can create an unnecessary barrier for immigrant students who have attended and graduated from Maryland high schools and are seeking to continue their education.

Students who have grown up in Maryland, attended Maryland schools, and graduated alongside their peers should have the opportunity to continue their education at Maryland institutions of higher education. Removing this administrative barrier helps ensure that these students are able to access affordable higher education and pursue careers that strengthen Maryland's communities and economy.

Community colleges are often the first step for immigrant students pursuing higher education and workforce training. Expanding access to in-county tuition for students who meet the educational requirements in current law supports Maryland's goals of educational attainment, workforce development, and economic opportunity for all students. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 1530**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.