

# 105th ADMINISTRATION 2025-2026

## SENATE RESOLUTION #43

IN THE STUDENT SENATE OF TOWSON UNIVERSITY, **MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**, A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR HB 1322 – THE MARYLAND CAMPUS AREA FREE EXPRESSION ACT.

**INTRODUCED ON:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

**INTRODUCED BY:** President Pro-Tempore Kelly

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** Government Operations, Favorable (4-1-0)

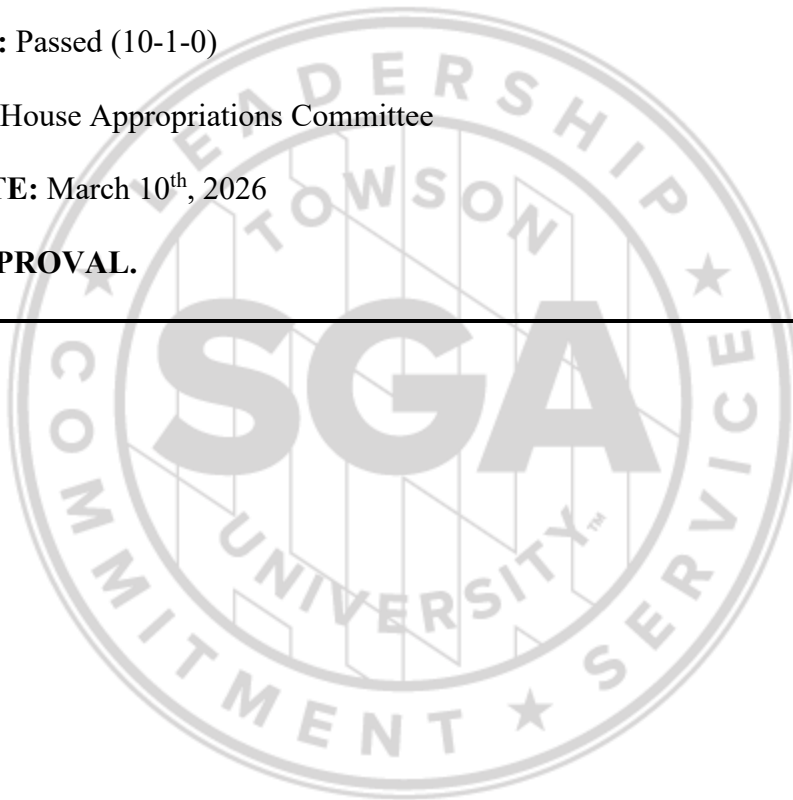
**SENATE ACTION:** Passed (10-1-0)

**ADDRESSED TO:** House Appropriations Committee

**FINAL VOTE DATE:** March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**ENACT UPON APPROVAL.**

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**SIGNATURE**

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Student Government Association President  
Allyyah Aali

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Date

**WHEREAS**, the Towson University Student Government Association represents the undergraduate student body of Towson University, a public institution of higher education within the State of Maryland.

**WHEREAS**, the Preamble to the Towson University Student Government Association Constitution affirms the students' desire to *"preserve within the University an atmosphere of free discussion, inquiry, and self-expression, to ensure the personal freedom and general welfare of the student body,"* thereby recognizing free expression as foundational to the mission of the Student Government Association.

**WHEREAS**, public institutions of higher education serve as marketplaces of ideas where students, faculty, staff, administrators, and invited guests engage in the free exchange of differing viewpoints.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 largely codifies existing First Amendment protections into Maryland statute.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 would specify that any outdoor area located on the campus of a public institution of higher education shall be considered a public forum for members of the campus community.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 would prohibit public institutions of higher education from designating restrictive "free speech zones" or otherwise limiting expressive activity to particular areas of campus.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 would authorize lawful expressive activity such as peaceful assembly, protests, speeches, distribution of literature, circulating petitions, carrying signs, and audio-visual recording, while permitting reasonable, content- and viewpoint-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 would prohibit institutions from charging security fees based on the content of expression or the anticipated reaction to speech, requiring that such determinations be made using clear, published, content- and viewpoint-neutral criteria.

**WHEREAS**, HB 1322 provides a private right of action authorizing the Attorney General or an aggrieved individual to bring an action against a public institution of higher education for violations and requires courts to award damages and appropriate relief if a violation is found.

**WHEREAS**, Article 10 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that *"freedom of speech and debate, or proceedings in the Legislature, ought not to be impeached in any Court of Judicature,"* reflecting Maryland's longstanding constitutional commitment to protecting freedom of speech within its governmental institutions.

**WHEREAS**, Article 40 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights provides that *"the liberty of the press ought to be inviolably preserved; that every citizen of the State ought to be allowed to speak, write and publish his sentiments on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that privilege,"* thereby affirming Maryland's constitutional protection of freedom of expression.

**WHEREAS**, protecting expressive rights on college campuses advances the guarantees of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Student Senate of the 105<sup>th</sup> Administration of the Student Government Association of Towson University expresses its support for HB 1322, the Maryland Campus Area Free Expression Act, and respectfully urges the House Appropriations Committee to give favorable consideration to this legislation during the 2026 Legislative Session.