

**XSB0212\_MACC\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

**House Appropriations Committee**

April 8, 2026

**SB 212 - Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)****Position: Oppose**

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The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports SB 212. This bill provides an important form of educational support to the financially dependent children of State and local public safety employees who lose their lives in the line of duty by ensuring that residency status does not become a barrier to attending a public institution of higher education in Maryland.

Maryland's community colleges serve students from families that have made profound sacrifices in service to their communities and the State. For these students, access to affordable higher education can be critical to their ability to persist in school and achieve long-term educational and economic stability after the loss of a parent. SB 212 recognizes that these families should not face additional challenges solely because of where they live when they seek to enroll.

By establishing a clear and consistent policy for this small, specific group of students, SB 212 reflects Maryland's commitment to honoring public safety service and supporting surviving family members in meaningful ways. This approach ensures that students who have already experienced an extraordinary loss can pursue higher education on equal footing with their peers.

Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **SB 212**.

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

**SB 212 HOUSE FAV FCG OCE LS26.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jessica Fitzwater

Position: FAV



**FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Jessica Fitzwater  
*County Executive*

**SB 212 – Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)**

**DATE:** April 8, 2026  
**COMMITTEE:** House Appropriations Committee  
**POSITION:** Favorable  
**FROM:** The Office of Frederick County Executive Jessica Fitzwater

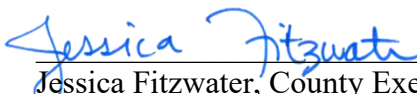
As the County Executive of Frederick County, I urge the committee to give **SB 212 – Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)** a favorable report. This bill grants in-state or in-county tuition at public institutions to children of State and local public safety employees who die in the line of duty.

Our public safety employees risk their lives daily to keep Maryland residents safe and protect others. When a first responder dies in the line of duty, we must ensure that their family has access to as many resources as possible to honor their sacrifice. This is not just our duty as elected officials, but as good neighbors, community members, and humans.

Currently, if the child of a first responder who has died in the line of duty lives outside Maryland, they are not eligible for in-state tuition at Maryland institutions of higher education. This creates a hardship for families who have already endured the devastating loss of a loved one serving Maryland and its communities. Because of Frederick County's location near the borders of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, it is not unusual for first responders serving Maryland to live in neighboring states. SB 212 ensures that children of first responders who die in the line of duty while serving Maryland are eligible for in-state tuition, regardless of residency.

We must do all we can to support our first responders and their families, especially in the heartbreaking experience of a line of duty death – SB 212 is one small step that will make a significant impact for families in this situation.

Frederick County is proud of our first responders and grateful for the sacrifices they make every day. I respectfully request that the State join us in our gratitude and advance SB 212 with a favorable report.

  
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Jessica Fitzwater, County Executive  
Frederick County, MD

**SB 212 FAV Draft .pdf**

Uploaded by: Meghan Music

Position: FAV



April 8, 2026

The Honorable Ben Barnes  
Chair, Appropriations Committee  
120 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chairman Barnes, Vice Chair Kaiser, and the Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a favorable report of Senate Bill 212, the Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act, sponsored by Senator Corderman. This legislation would exempt financially dependent children of certain State or local public safety employees who die as a result of or in the course of employment from paying out-of-state or out-of-county tuition at Maryland public institutions of higher education.

Senate Bill 212 honors the courage and sacrifice of public safety personnel, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, corrections officers, emergency medical services personnel, and others, by ensuring that the dependents of those who make the ultimate sacrifice have expanded access to affordable higher education. Access to higher education can be life-altering for a student and provides long-term economic mobility. This bill aligns with Maryland's longstanding commitment to supporting families of public servants and acknowledges the profound service these individuals provide to our communities.

By exempting dependent children from out-of-state or out-of-county tuition, SB 212 would reduce financial barriers and extend meaningful tuition equity for these students. This exemption complements existing State tuition benefit programs and reflects Maryland's values of fairness and recognition of service.

MHEC supports the intent of Senate Bill 212 and is committed to working collaboratively with public institutions of higher education. MHEC wants to highlight that this legislation would require institutions to support the effective and timely implementation of the tuition benefit. To support smooth administration, MHEC notes that institutions, in collaboration with MHEC, would need to:

- Update residency and tuition classification processes so eligible students are clearly identified, and the exemption is applied consistently and accurately; and

- Align systems and operational workflows to reflect the new eligibility category, ensuring proper coding, reporting, and transparency.

MHEC views these steps as part of its ongoing coordination with institutions to improve clarity, consistency, and student experience. These considerations are offered to support smooth administration of the benefit and to ensure that eligible students receive the full intended value of the exemption in a timely manner.

Senate Bill 212 represents a meaningful step toward expanding educational access while honoring the legacy of Maryland's public safety professionals, and it is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact.

For these reasons, the Maryland Higher Education Commission respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 212. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Meghan Music, Executive Director of External and Legislative Relations.

Yours in Service,



Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Interim Secretary  
Maryland Higher Education Commission

**X SB 212 MCPA MSA-in-state-county-tuition-public s**

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair and  
Members of the House Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Samira A. Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

**DATE:** April 8, 2026

**RE:** **SB 212 - Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees**

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** SB 212. This bill clarifies that a financially dependent child who may reside in another state or another county whose parent is a state or local public safety official who dies in the line of duty is exempt from paying the out-of-state or out-of-county tuition rate at a public institution of higher education in Maryland.

Public safety professionals dedicate their lives to protecting and serving the people of Maryland. Tragically, some of these brave individuals do not return home. Their families, already burdened with immeasurable loss, should not also face financial barriers to higher education.

SB 212 aligns with and builds upon similar legislation enacted across the country, including in Maryland where the dependents are residents. Children of law enforcement who do not live in the state of Maryland should be no exception. The legislation recognizes the sacrifices made and extends these benefits so that children of fallen heroes can pursue their academic and professional aspirations without undue financial burden.

For these reasons, the MCPA and MSA respectfully request a **FAVORABLE report** on SB 212.

# **SB 212\_HB 003\_ Higher Education - Nonresident Tui**

Uploaded by: Trudy Tibbals

Position: FAV

**SB 212/HB 003:** Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Spouses and Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (**Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act**): Please vote to **SUPPORT** this bill.

Dear Appropriations Committee:

I am writing as a resident of Maryland to express my strong support for **SB 212/HB 003**, the *Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act*.

This compassionate legislation provides a meaningful benefit to the families of our state and local public safety employees — including law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and correctional officers — who make the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Specifically, it exempts the spouses and financially dependent children of these fallen heroes from paying nonresident tuition rates at Maryland public institutions of higher education when they otherwise would not qualify as residents.

Public safety professionals put their lives on the line every day to protect Maryland communities. When they die in the performance of their duties, their surviving spouses and dependent children should not face the additional financial burden of out-of-state tuition rates while pursuing higher education in the state their loved one served and died to protect. This bill is a small but significant way to honor their sacrifice and support the families left behind.

The measure is narrowly tailored, fiscally responsible, and sends a clear message that Maryland stands with the families of our fallen heroes. It builds on existing tuition benefits programs and provides a fair, targeted form of recognition for those who have given everything in service to the public. This is the right thing to do for the families who have lost so much.

I respectfully urge you to **support SB 212/HB 003** and vote in favor of its final passage.

Thank you for your time and dutiful consideration of my viewpoint on this important education tuition legislation.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals

# **SB 212 Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FWA

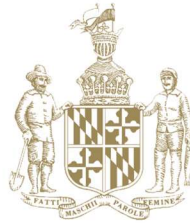
PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 403  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3903 • 301-858-3903  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903  
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 28, 2026

Senate Education, Energy and Environment Committee  
Chair Brian J. Feldman  
Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Higher Education - Nonresident Tuition - Exemption for Dependents of State or Local Public Safety Employees (Maryland Fallen Heroes Tuition Benefits Act)**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 212 today. SB 212 would extend in-state tuition benefits to the surviving dependents of public safety employees who died in the line of duty while serving Maryland state or local agencies covered under the Maryland Public Safety Article, regardless of the recipient's current state or county of residence.

Providing in-state tuition benefits to the surviving dependents of Public Service Officers ensures that their families are supported in achieving educational and economic stability after a tragic loss. It reinforces Maryland's commitment to honoring its fallen heroes and sustaining a culture of respect and gratitude for those who dedicate their lives to public service in the state of Maryland. Additionally, this is a low-cost benefit to offer for Maryland public safety employees.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 212.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman – District 2, Washington & Frederick Counties