

MARY BETH CAROZZA  
Legislative District 38  
Somerset, Wicomico,  
and Worcester Counties

Education, Energy, and  
the Environment Committee

Executive Nominations Committee



Annapolis Office  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 316  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3645 · 301-858-3645  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3645  
Fax 410-841-3006 · 301-858-3006  
MaryBeth.Carozza@senate.state.md.us

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
**ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401**

**March 11, 2026**

**The Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee**  
**SB 486 – Higher Education – Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship**  
**Program – Eligible Institutions**  
**Statement of Support by Bill Sponsor Senator Mary Beth Carozza**

Thank you Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and my fellow members of the distinguished Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee for this opportunity to present Senate Bill 486 – Higher Education – Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program – Eligible Institutions and ask for a favorable report.

I want to thank my fellow members of this Committee – Senators Harris and Watson – for cosponsoring this legislation that would expand eligibility for the Maryland Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program to include individuals attending the University of Maryland Eastern Shore enrolled in one of the following degree programs:

1. Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies;
2. Doctor of Pharmacy;
3. Doctor of Physical Therapy; or
4. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

The Graduate and Professional Scholarship Program administered by the Maryland Higher Education Commission provides financial assistance to degree-seeking graduate and professional students. A recipient must be a Maryland resident, demonstrate a financial need, and attend a specified graduate and professional school. Under current law, the eligible schools include the University of Maryland, Baltimore Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Pharmacy, and Social Work; University of Baltimore School of Law; The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. SB 486 would simply expand the eligibility of the scholarship program to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore is a historically black, land-grant degree and research institution on the Eastern Shore. Graduate students are provided advanced specialized training in needed fields, particularly for rural areas.

I thank you for your kind attention and consideration, and I respectfully request a favorable report on SB 486.