
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

April 1, 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 makes thoughtful changes to the requirements for an undocumented student to qualify for an out-of-state tuition exemption at a public institution of higher education. As amended, the bill reduces from three years to two years the period during which a student or the student's parent or legal guardian must have filed a Maryland income tax return in order to qualify. The bill also provides additional flexibility for students to maintain their tuition status by allowing annual proof of residency through either a Maryland tax return or other official documentation, as determined by the institution.

These changes help reduce administrative barriers while preserving a clear connection to the State. In practice, documentation requirements can create challenges for students who have attended and graduated from Maryland high schools and are seeking to continue their education. By easing these requirements, HB 1530 helps ensure that more students who have built their lives in Maryland are able to access affordable higher 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. 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.