

FAVORABLE
House Bill 1530
Higher Education – Undocumented Students – Out-of-State Tuition Exemption
Eligibility

Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment
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The Maryland State Education Association supports House Bill 1530, which would decrease from 3 years to 2 years the number of years for which an individual or the individual's parent or guardian must file taxes before the academic year for eligibility to receive an out-of-state tuition exemption at a public institution of higher education.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

As public school educators, our charge is to teach and guide every student, regardless of immigration status, income, or background. We firmly believe that all students should have the opportunity to continue working toward their career goals after they graduate high school, which for many means having access to postsecondary studies. This legislation would rightly expand that access for undocumented Maryland high school students seeking to qualify for in-state tuition at state colleges and universities.

We were vocal supporters of the Maryland Dream Act during its initial passage, and we continue to champion policies that promote equitable access to higher education. Adjusting the in-state tuition eligibility requirement will make this policy available to a greater number of hardworking Maryland students, especially those who may not have been aware of the program earlier in their high school career.

We urge the committee to issue a favorable report on House Bill 1530.