

Support HB845.pdf

Uploaded by: A.Kaye Kenney

Position: FAV



WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chairman
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Feldman and Committee:

Subject: Support for HB845-Higher Education-Student Financial Assistance-Alterations to Scholarship Program-Updated Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my support for, which would expand eligibility for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship to include Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School in Delmar, Delaware.

Students who live in Delmar, Maryland often attend Delmar High School due to the unique interstate structure of the Delmar community and its school system. While these students are Maryland residents, they currently face barriers to accessing certain state higher education benefits because their high school is located just across the state line in Delaware.

HB845 corrects this inequity by ensuring that Maryland residents who attend Delmar High School are treated the same as other Maryland students when applying for the Community College Promise Scholarship. These students and their families pay Maryland taxes, contribute to Maryland communities, and deserve equal access to the educational opportunities the state provides.

This bill was amended to appropriately expand eligibility to surviving transportation workers and any child, stepchild, spouse or unmarried partners. As well as related definitions. I fully support this amendment.

By expanding eligibility, this bill supports workforce development, increases access to affordable higher education, and helps Maryland residents continue their education at our community colleges.

I dutifully urge the committee to give HB845 a favorable report.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND



Julie M. Giordano
County Executive

XHB0845_MACC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

April 2, 2026

HB 845 - Higher Education - Student Financial Assistance - Alterations to Scholarship Programs

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 845**. Maryland residents should have equitable access to the State's higher education programs and financial aid opportunities, and scholarship programs should reflect the real circumstances facing students and families across the State.

HB 845 makes important changes to two scholarship programs that help expand access to postsecondary education. First, the bill corrects a unique geographic issue affecting the Town of Delmar by ensuring that Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School, which is physically located in Delaware, remain eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. These students live in Maryland communities, contribute to Maryland's workforce, and should have the same opportunity to access this important program as other Maryland students.

Second, the bill expands the Fallen Transportation Workers Scholarship Program to include surviving transportation workers and additional eligible family members and allows the scholarship to be used for the total cost of attendance at any institution of postsecondary education. These changes recognize the significant impact that serious transportation-related accidents can have on workers and their families and help ensure that eligible students and families have meaningful access to financial assistance as they pursue higher education.

Community colleges serve as a primary pathway to higher education and workforce training for many Maryland students, including those seeking affordable and flexible options close to home. Expanding eligibility and improving access to these scholarship programs supports educational opportunity, workforce development, and economic mobility for students and families across the State. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 845**.

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

SB 728_ HB 845 FAV (2).pdf

Uploaded by: Meghan Music

Position: FAV



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair,
Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 845 – Higher Education – Student Financial Assistance - Alterations to Scholarship Programs, as amended. The Senate unanimously passed a substantially similar bill, SB 728.

House Bill 845 has been amended to include changes to the Fallen and Surviving Transportation Workers Scholarship Program, expanding eligibility to include incidents resulting in at least \$100,000,000 in total damages to a transportation facility or transportation facilities project in the State.

HB 845 also clarifies the eligibility requirements for the Community College Promise Scholarship, ensuring that Maryland residents who graduate from Delmar High School remain eligible for this critical financial aid program. Because Delmar High School serves students in a unique border community shared between Maryland and Delaware, where Maryland students attend a high school located in Delaware, Maryland residents attending the school may face unintended barriers when applying for certain State financial aid programs tied to high school location or residency criteria.

For these reasons, the Maryland Higher Education Commission respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 845 as amended.

Yours in Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elena Quiroz-Livanis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elena Quiroz-Livanis, Interim Secretary
Maryland Higher Education Commission

2026-HB845-Adams-Favorable Testimony as Amended.pdf

Uploaded by: Chris Adams

Position: FWA

CHRISTOPHER T. ADAMS
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Business Regulation
Housing and Real Property
Land Use and Zoning

Chair

Eastern Shore Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 405
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3343
Christopher.Adams@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 845 w/Amendment #313528/1

Higher Education-Student Financial Assistance-Alterations to Scholarship Programs

- ***Why is the Bill being introduced?***

The bill is being introduced to alter the eligibility for the Community College Promise Scholarship program to include residents of Delmar, Maryland who graduated from Delmar High School in Delmar, Delaware.

- ***What does the Bill do?***

House Bill 845 will allow students from Delmar, Maryland who attend and graduate from Delmar High School to be eligible for the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship. These Delmar, Maryland students are Maryland residents, yet since their local high school building is physically located in Delmar, Delaware, they are currently prevented from accessing the Promise Scholarship. As Amended, House Bill 845 still has the same intent for Delmar High School graduates, but now has language related to the Francis Scott Key Transportation Workers Scholarship Program, including updating definitions and the eligibility for tuition reimbursements.

- ***Why is it important to pass now?***

The Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship is a last-dollar scholarship for students who enroll at a Maryland community college. Maryland Delmar High School students should not be denied eligibility and opportunities to benefit from the Maryland Community College Promise Scholarship due to the physical location of their high school located in Delmar, Delaware.

2026-HB845-Vote Tally with Amendment-WC House Dele

Uploaded by: Chris Adams

Position: FWA

CHRISTOPHER T. ADAMS
Legislative District 37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
and Wicomico Counties

Economic Matters Committee

Subcommittees

Business Regulation

Housing and Real Property

Land Use and Zoning

Chair

Eastern Shore Delegation



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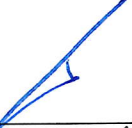

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Wicomico County House Delegation Vote Tally

HB845 w/Amendment #313528/1

Higher Education-Student Financial Assistance-Alterations to Scholarship Programs

Please Initial and Date

Name	Approve	Disapprove	Date
Delegate Adams			3/31/26
Delegate Anderson			3/31/26
Delegate Beauchamp			3/31/26
Delegate Hartman			3/31/26
Delegate Hutchinson			3/31/26
Delegate Sample-Hughes			3/31/26