

Chapter 299

**(House Bill 539)**

AN ACT concerning

**Public Institutions of Higher Education – Student Withdrawal Policy –  
Reimbursement of Tuition and Fees  
(Cameron Carden Act of 2024)**

FOR the purpose of requiring each public institution of higher education to adopt a policy to authorize a student to withdraw under extenuating circumstances and ~~reimburse~~ refund the student for tuition and fees paid by the student for a certain semester under certain circumstances; and generally relating to withdrawal policies at public institutions of higher education.

BY adding to  
Article – Education  
Section 15–138  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Education**

**15–138.**

**(A) IN THIS SECTION, “EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES” INCLUDES:**

- (1) ILLNESS;**
- (2) INJURY;**
- (3) HOSPITALIZATION; AND**
- (4) MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS.**

**(B) (1) EACH PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SHALL ADOPT A POLICY THAT AUTHORIZES A STUDENT TO WITHDRAW FOR EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.**

**(2) THE POLICY UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A PROVISION TO ~~REIMBURSE~~ REFUND A STUDENT FOR TUITION AND FEES PAID BY THE STUDENT FOR THE SEMESTER IN WHICH THE STUDENT WITHDRAWS IF**

**THE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES INHIBIT THE STUDENT'S ABILITY TO ACQUIRE AN EDUCATION AT THE PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AS DEFINED IN POLICY.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

**Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.**