



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

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Director of Government Affairs

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BILL NO.: HB 559

TITLE: Baltimore County - Property Tax - Homeowners Property Tax Credit

SPONSOR: Delegate Long

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **UNFAVORABLE**

DATE: February 2, 2021

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 559 – Baltimore County – Property Tax – Homeowners Property Tax Credit Supplement. This bill would require Baltimore County to grant a property tax credit to supplement the State homeowners’ property tax credit. This bill could mean a drastic decrease in the County’s property tax revenues, significantly affecting County services.

If this proposed legislation was enacted, it would raise the combined gross income limit and the maximum local credit. This would lead to the cost of credits issued to increase by several million dollars. This legislation would cost Baltimore County an estimated \$5 million if passed, a substantial financial burden even without considering the costs of keeping residents safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In his first term in office, County Executive Olszewski spoke with over 2,000 Baltimore County residents in town halls across the County. An issue often brought up was that residents wanted to maintain County services and avoid budget shortfalls. This decrease in County property tax revenues could result in exactly what the people of Baltimore County hoped to avoid. Additionally, this legislation would result in Baltimore County would having less to invest in developing twenty-first century schools and infrastructure.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 559. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.