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HEARING DATE: March 26, 2024

BILL: HB0174

TITLE: Property Tax Assessment - Unsuccessful Appeals to Maryland Tax Court - Fee

SDAT POSITION: SUPPORT

The Department of Assessments and Taxation supports House Bill 174 - Property Tax Assessment - Unsuccessful Appeals to Maryland Tax Court - Fee. This bill would establish a \$100 filing fee for unsuccessful property tax assessment appeals to the Maryland Tax Court by high value commercial properties.

In most neighboring jurisdictions, all properties, regardless of their assessed value, are subject to some sort of filing fee imposed either by their local circuit court or state tax court when a real property assessment is appealed. Maryland is unique among its neighboring jurisdictions in that it does not charge a fee for property assessment appeals to the Tax Court under any circumstances. As a result, both the Department's assessors and the Maryland Tax Court spend a disproportionate amount of resources responding to often-baseless appeals that are automatically filed by high value commercial properties every assessment cycle.

House Bill 174 would give certain properties skin in the game by establishing a \$100 filing fee made payable to the Maryland Tax Court for unsuccessful appeals. This bill limits the fee to be paid only by revenue generating properties assessed at a value of \$5 million or greater to capture only those properties that take up the majority of the Department's resources without burdening the average homeowner.

Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 174.