

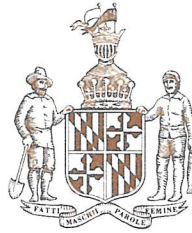
NANCY J. KING
Legislative District 39
Montgomery County

MAJORITY LEADER

Budget and Taxation Committee

Chair

Education, Business and
Administration Subcommittee



James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 120
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3686 · 410-841-3686
800-492-7122 Ext. 3686
Fax 301-858-3670 · 410-841-3670
Nancy.King@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SPONSOR STATEMENT

Senate Bill 576 – Assessment Appeal Boards and Supervisors – Regional Organization

February 7, 2024

Mister Chairman and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

Maryland is one of two states in the country that assesses properties at the state level and the State Department of Assessment and Taxation (SDAT) is a state agency that is charged with doing county level work. These efforts bring millions of dollars in revenue that local governments across the State rely on.

SDAT's assessors need institutional knowledge and expertise to do their jobs correctly, and there are only so many people available with the in-depth knowledge of assessing varied properties such as Maryland casinos, natural gas companies, etc. With a limited number of experienced assessors, the ability to shift them to different entities in the state is critical.

The Department currently pays for 24 county offices, along with necessary staffing and expenses. As new technologies allow assessors to move away from making as many in-person assessments, there is no longer the need for so many offices.

Senate Bill 576 will consolidate all 24 offices and appeals boards into 8 regional offices. This would give the Department more flexibility to allocate resources as necessary and reduce wasteful spending.

This legislation will lower costs and increase efficiencies in the state, and so I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 576.