



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ACCOUNTING AND TAX PROFESSIONALS

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To: Ways and Means

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals Re:

HB 455

Contact Person: Giavante' Hawkins

Position: IN FAVOR

Comptroller - Electronic Tax and Fee Return Filing Requirements

On behalf of the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP), representing over 2,000 tax professionals serving hundreds of thousands of Maryland taxpayers, I strongly support House Bill 455, modernizing tax filing through mandated electronic returns phased in strategically overcoming years.

Our organization provides accounting expertise, assisting countless businesses and individuals complying with state tax obligations. We understand that electronic reporting improves timeliness, accuracy, and administrative efficiency for all parties relative to paper processing. However, smaller enterprises often need more resources to implement technology upgrades readily.

House Bill 455 strikes the optimal balance between society-wide gains from digital automation and empathy, exempting micro-firm transitions requiring more graduated adoption. Thoughtful allowances for individual taxpayers recognizing accessibility barriers also demonstrate commendable prudence. And with phase-ins not beginning for two years in most areas, changes allow appropriate planning to minimize disruption.

The MSATP applauds the Comptroller's Office for advancing common-sense improvements supported by those ensuring smooth transitions. We urge a favorable committee report keeping Maryland's revenue administration at the forefront of responsible modernization.

I welcome any questions on how our expertise can further contribute to successful enactment benefitting taxpayers and authorities alike. Please contact me with input requests or ideas as deliberations continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Giavante Hawkins

