
ROBERT G. CASSILLY
Harford County Executive



ROBERT S. McCORD
Director of Administration

February 26, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa Atterbeary, Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Ben Barnes, Chair
Maryland House of Delegates
Appropriations Committee
120 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Delegate Atterbeary and Delegate Barnes,

For Harford County, the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act (HB 352) proposes a harmful fiscal effect totaling nearly \$12 million for the budget year, including multiple service cuts and cost shifts.

The proposal to shift costs onto counties by sending invoices simply places the State's fiscal problem into other hands and threatens local services. Teacher, and now community college pension costs of \$3.7 million for Harford County do not connect to any county government decision, but are proposed to be shifted, nonetheless. And the legislative analysts have made recommendations to double this amount, to fully and permanently relieve the State of its own problem. Billing the county for an additional \$900,000 to pick up more costs of the State employees who conduct property assessments does not create any efficiency and will eliminate their State-level accountability nearly completely.

Under the Governor's income tax plan, Harford County would lose roughly \$3.7 million in local income tax revenues – a massive disruption to our ability to continue providing essential services and to support public education. Meanwhile, the schools themselves are forced to support even more costs for students with special needs, whose care is guaranteed under the Constitution.

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We urge the General Assembly to reject proposals to shift costs onto county governments to remedy the State's fiscal crisis. Counties are willing to manage and deal with our own set of fiscal difficulties, but we cannot bear hundreds of millions of dollars in massive, permanent cost shifts. For Harford County, these state actions that could amount to nearly \$12 million in cuts will do irreparable local harm.

Sincerely,



Robert S. McCord
Director of Administration

Cc: Robert G. Cassilly, Harford County Executive
Robert F. Sandlass, Harford County Treasurer
Benjamin Lloyd, Chief, Harford County Budget and Management