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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB0900: Legislative Scholarship Programs – Eligibility and Use – Real Estate Appraisal Program

March 10, 2026

Good afternoon, Chair Barnes and members of the Appropriations Committee.

For the record, I am Delegate Kym Taylor, representing Prince George's County's District 23. I am here to present HB0900, which expands the eligibility and permitted uses of Maryland's legislative and senatorial scholarship programs to support students pursuing careers in the real estate appraisal industry.

As economic shifts and housing market challenges persist, the demand for qualified real estate appraisers continues to grow. Accurate appraisals ensure fair property valuations, protect homeowners from predatory practices, and contribute to a stable housing market. However, the pathway to certification is often costly and inaccessible to many Marylanders, particularly for individuals from underrepresented communities.

HB0900 addresses this issue by allowing recipients of senatorial and delegate scholarships to use their awards toward appraisal licensure course requirements - whether they are seeking a degree or not. Students could also use the scholarships toward costs relative to simulation options offered under the Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal (PAREA) Program which was authorized by the Maryland General Assembly a few years ago.

This expansion aligns with recommendations from the Task Force on Property Appraisal and Valuation Equity, which emphasized the need for financial assistance to increase diversity in the field.

By broadening scholarship eligibility, HB0900 strengthens Maryland's workforce development initiatives, expands access to career-focused education, and promotes equity within the real estate industry. This is a practical step toward economic mobility and housing equity, and I urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0900.

Thank you.