COMPTROLLER of MARYLAND
SERVING THE PEOPLE

Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller

Matthew Dudzic
Director, State Affairs

Letter of Support

Senate Bill 519 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Assistance Program Implementation Delay and Study
Budget & Taxation Committee
February 25, 2026

Since taking on my role as Comptroller of Maryland, I have been dedicated to ensuring that Marylanders don't leave money on the table by helping them claim the tax credits they have earned, especially the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

What this bill does: SB519 requires the Comptroller of Maryland to study and make recommendations on the best way to encourage eligible taxpayers to claim the EITC. SB519 also delays adoption of certain provisions related to eligible filers who did not claim the credit.

Why this bill is important: The EITC is widely considered one of most effective tools for combating poverty, and I have launched several initiatives to encourage more Marylanders to claim the state's EITC. Last year we partnered with the Governor's Office for Children to release a report that reviews our outreach strategies and the impact they have had on Maryland's families. We also partnered with Urban Institute to identify where eligible Marylanders are not claiming the tax credits they have earned and the barriers to claiming individual tax credits in order to further refine our outreach.

The work we have done since the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit for Low-Income Families program was established in 2022 has shown significant returns, and Maryland has consistently seen the number and share of EITC-eligible tax filers who missed the state tax credit decrease. Now, with several years of data on who is claiming the EITC and the efficacy of our outreach programs, this is the perfect time to review what has worked, where there are still gaps in claims, and what we can do to ensure that no Marylander leaves money on the table during tax season. I am excited to undertake this study and look forward to presenting the Maryland General Assembly with our findings and recommendations.

SB519 also includes language to delay implementation of the provision allowing EITC-eligible taxpayers to retroactively claim the credit. Unfortunately, the termination of the federal Direct File program in late 2025 disrupted our ability to implement this provision. This delay will allow us to study the best way to reach these eligible filers before we dedicate significant resources toward implementation.

I urge a favorable report on SB519. Thank you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Dudzic, Director of State Affairs, at MDudzic@marylandtaxes.gov.