



**HB735: Earned Income Tax Credit –
Assistance Program Implementation Delay and Study**

Position: Favorable

February 19, 2026

The Honorable Jheanelle K. Wilkins, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
130 Taylor House Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Wilkins and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Economic Action Maryland Fund urges a favorable report on HB735, which would instruct the Comptroller and the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to explore ways to better ensure low-income Marylanders are claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit.

Maryland's Earned Income Tax Credit is a valuable tool for low- to moderate-income Marylanders and provides up to \$4,000 for eligible Marylanders. The average refund is \$1,100. Marylanders can qualify even if they do not owe taxes, and as a result many Marylanders – especially those from our most low-income households - do not apply for this funding lifeline.

According to analysis done by the Comptroller, as many as 99,000 eligible taxpayers did not apply last year.¹ Many taxpayers are aware of the federal earned income tax credit but were not aware of the state credit. Economic Action Maryland Fund is well acquainted with the difficulties of reaching Marylanders with information about tax credits. Our Securing Older Adult Resources staff work with older adults to raise awareness of and process applications for Maryland's homeowner's and renter's tax credits. We helped return \$863,865 to Marylanders who qualified for the program but would not otherwise have known or applied for it.

Affordability is a priority of this legislative session. This legislation helps those households struggling the most with affordability with funding assistance to pay for the essentials they desperately need. For these reasons, we urge a favorable report on HB735.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Deputy Director

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<https://marylandmatters.org/2025/07/18/nearly-99000-low-income-marylanders-left-tax-credits-on-the-table-lierman-says/>

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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