



Letter of Support

House Bill 735 – Earned Income Tax Credit – Assistance Program Implementation Delay and Study Ways & Means Committee February 19, 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: HB735 requires the Comptroller of Maryland to study and make recommendations on the best way to encourage eligible taxpayers to claim the EITC. HB735 also delays adoption of the "short form requirement" for individuals who were eligible to claim the EITC but did not do so.

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.

HB735 also includes language to delay implementation of the "short form requirements" for allowing EITC-eligible taxpayers who did not claim the EITC during filing to retroactively claim the credit. Implementation of this provision is administratively complex, and this delay will allow us to study its potential efficacy before dedicating significant resources toward implementation.

I urge a favorable report on HB735. Thank you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Matthew Dudzic, Director of State Affairs, at MDudzic@marylandtaxes.gov.

