

HOUSE BILL 1513

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4lr3526

By: **Delegate Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 23, 2024

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Economic Action Maryland – Securing Older Adult Resources Program –**
3 **Appropriation**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include in the annual budget bill a certain
5 appropriation for Economic Action Maryland for certain services to promote the
6 financial capability of low-income individuals; specifying the purposes for which the
7 appropriations may be used; and generally relating to services to promote the
8 financial capability of low-income individuals.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Human Services
11 Section 6–801 and 6–802
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Human Services**

17 6–801.

18 (a) **(1)** For fiscal years 2021 through 2023, the Governor shall include in the
19 annual State budget an appropriation of \$200,000 for the CASH Campaign of Maryland to
20 promote the financial capability of low-income individuals and families by providing
21 outreach, education, and free tax preparation services.

22 **[(b)] (2)** For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor shall
23 include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$500,000 for the CASH Campaign.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
2 **GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF**
3 **\$225,000 FOR ECONOMIC ACTION MARYLAND TO SUPPORT THE SECURING OLDER**
4 **ADULT RESOURCES PROGRAM.**

5 6–802.

6 **(A)** An appropriation made under [§ 6–801] **§ 6–801(A)** of this subtitle may be
7 used only to:

8 (1) provide free volunteer income tax assistance that helps low–income
9 individuals and families:

10 (i) file tax returns;

11 (ii) avoid predatory fees; and

12 (iii) claim the federal earned income tax credit or the State earned
13 income tax credit under § 10–704 of the Tax – General Article;

14 (2) coordinate and expand access to free, fact–based financial education
15 and coaching for low–income individuals and families;

16 (3) connect low–income individuals and families to affordable,
17 high–quality financial services;

18 (4) recruit, train, and manage a corps of volunteers to provide financial
19 education, coaching, and tax preparation services for low–income individuals and families;
20 and

21 (5) conduct outreach to low–income individuals and families.

22 **(B) AN APPROPRIATION MADE UNDER § 6–801(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE**
23 **USED ONLY TO:**

24 **(1) PROVIDE FREE VOLUNTEER PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE THAT**
25 **HELPS LOW–INCOME INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR:**

26 **(I) THE MARYLAND HOMEOWNERS’ TAX CREDIT UNDER §**
27 **9–104 OF THE TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE; AND**

28 **(II) THE RENTERS’ PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM UNDER §**
29 **9–102 OF THE TAX – PROPERTY ARTICLE;**

1 **(2) COORDINATE AND EXPAND ACCESS TO FREE, FACT-BASED**
2 **FINANCIAL EDUCATION AND COACHING FOR LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS; AND**

3 **(3) CONDUCT EARNED BENEFIT SCREENINGS AND OUTREACH TO**
4 **LOW-INCOME INDIVIDUALS.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2024.