

HOUSE BILL 989

O2, O1, Q7

6lr3033

By: Delegates Lopez, Kaufman, ~~and Wims~~ Wims, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Hutchinson, Kipke, Martinez, Reilly, Rosenberg, Ross, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health and Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Assistance for the Elderly – Study on Calculation of Income**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~providing that certain rental income may not be included in the~~
4 ~~calculation of income for purposes of eligibility for any State tax credit, housing~~
5 ~~assistance program, or medical assistance program; requiring the Department of~~
6 ~~Aging to review each State tax credit, housing assistance program, and medical~~
7 ~~assistance program and determine whether this Act is applicable; requiring the~~
8 ~~Department to notify certain units of State government of the requirements of this~~
9 ~~Act; and generally relating to the calculation of income for State tax credits, housing~~
10 ~~assistance programs, or medical assistance programs~~ requiring the Department of
11 Aging, in consultation with the Department of Disabilities, the Department of
12 Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the
13 Department of Human Services, to conduct a certain study on the calculation of
14 income for certain housing assistance programs and medical assistance programs;
15 and generally relating to a study on the calculation of income for State housing
16 assistance programs and medical assistance programs.

17 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~
18 ~~Article — Human Services~~
19 ~~Section 10-101(a) and (c)~~
20 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
21 ~~(2010 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~BY adding to~~
~~Article — Human Services~~
~~Section 10-215~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

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

~~Article — Human Services~~

~~10-101.~~

~~(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated:~~

~~(e) “Department” means the Department of Aging.~~

~~10-215.~~

~~(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO ANY STATE TAX CREDIT, HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT:~~

~~(1) IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS; AND~~

~~(2) LIMITS ELIGIBILITY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH LESS THAN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF INCOME.~~

~~(B) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE CALCULATION OF INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ANY STATE TAX CREDIT, HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, OR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAY NOT INCLUDE INCOME THAT AN INDIVIDUAL RECEIVES FROM RENTING A PORTION OF THE INDIVIDUAL’S PRIMARY RESIDENCE.~~

~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

~~(1) REVIEW EACH STATE TAX CREDIT, HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND DETERMINE WHETHER THIS SECTION APPLIES; AND~~

~~(2) IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THIS SECTION APPLIES, NOTIFY THE UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTERING THE CREDIT OR PROGRAM OF THE LIMITATION ON THE CALCULATION OF INCOME UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.~~

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That, on or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Aging shall:

3 (1) in consultation with the Department of Disabilities, the Department of
4 Health, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of
5 Human Services, study the implications of prohibiting State housing assistance programs
6 and State medical assistance programs designed to assist aged, blind, and disabled
7 individuals and that limit eligibility based on income from including income that an
8 individual receives from renting a portion of the individual’s primary residence in the
9 calculation of income required for the program, including:

10 (i) identifying any barriers, including federal laws;

11 (ii) identifying necessary State resources; and

12 (iii) determining which State housing assistance programs and State
13 medical assistance programs such a prohibition could reasonably apply to, based on the
14 findings under items (i) and (ii) of this subsection; and

15 (2) report to the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health
16 Committee, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on its findings
17 and recommendations.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2026. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this
20 Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no
21 further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.