



TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

HB 275 – Individual Income Taxes – Brackets and Rates

POSITION: Support

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Maryland League members understand the importance of the relationship between various revenue sources available to state government and the services provided by those revenues. A sound revenue system must allow the State to invest in essential public goods such as education, transportation, and health care.

The League testifies based on “Positions” that have been reached by study and consensus. Our most critical positions for taxes include support for: 1) a progressive tax system, and 2) an equitable and efficient fiscal structure. We strongly support a progressive income tax system.

Brackets and rates are not permanently “right” or “wrong.” Everything changes including our economy. There has been much discussion as of late about the dual economy this pandemic has revealed. While certainly an oversimplification, there is something clearer of late to the maxim that “the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.” This bill recognizes this reality.

A sound revenue system must allow the State to invest in essential public goods such as education, transportation, and health care. In all three of these areas there has been serious underinvestment as demonstrated in public health with this pandemic; our roads, bridges, and transit; and the findings of the Kirwan Commission. This bill recognizes this reality.

We urge a favorable report on HB 275.