



10630 Little Patuxent Parkway  
Suite 146  
Columbia, MD 21044  
1-800-922-9672  
410-876-5998  
FAX 443-881-4146  
www.msatp.org

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To: Appropriations Committee

From: The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals, Inc.

Re: HB709 By: The Speaker (By Request – Office of the Comptroller)

Contact Person: Giavante Hawkins, Executive Director

Position: SUPPORT

21st Century Financial Systems Council - Establishment

The MD Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals (MSATP) has 2,000 CPAs and Professional Tax members, representing over 700,000 Maryland residents. The MD Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals supports bill HB709.

As the Executive Director of MSATP, I have been in constant communication with the Comptroller's office on issues that members or clients of members face. It has been brought to my attention on numerous occasions by staff and Directors at the Comptroller's office that the systems are outdated, and they cannot complete their duties within the office efficiently due to the old financial systems. It creates frustration in the state's accounting industry and clients.

Modernizing the Comptroller's financial system, and all state financial systems, should be a top priority to increase efficiency throughout the state of Maryland. Still, it is understood that an executive council is required to manage the project and oversee implementation, as it will be a large overhaul with a tremendous amount of data with high importance to making sure the system integrates and works well.

Therefore, we urge a FAVORABLE report on HB709.