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TESTIMONY ON SB 659
Comptroller - Modernization of State Financial Systems - Report

Senate Budget and Tax Committee
March 9, 2023

SUPPORT

Maryland Rise is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization working to promote economic opportunity for all Marylanders, not just the wealthy and well-connected.

Maryland Rise supports proposals focused on making Maryland's tax code fairer. Right now, Maryland has one of the most outdated accounting systems in the country. As a result, necessary services to vendors, businesses, and nonprofits have been lacking. Replacing this system is a much-needed step toward modernizing our state government infrastructure and ensuring the Controller's office has all the resources to function effectively.

This bill directs the Comptroller to lead a multi-agency effort to prepare for the timely and effective replacement of the current financial systems, determine the needs of all involved agencies, and oversee implementation of the new system. Along with the Comptroller, this process will include the State Treasurer's office, the Department of Budget and Management, The Department of Information Technology, and The Department of General Services.

This process will take both time and money, and it will require the full support of all branches of government for its success. As such, the General Assembly should pass this bill to show that they are committed to the project, and to ensure implementation begins as soon as possible.

Therefore, we urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 659