



February 08, 2023

SB 319

Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Individuals At Least 75 Years Old (Diamond Income Reduction Act)

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

Senate Bill 319 expands eligibility for an existing subtraction modification under Maryland income tax (that, under current law, is available for individuals who are age one hundred or older), to include individuals who are age 75 or older. Thus, for purposes of determining Maryland adjusted gross income, an individual who is at least 75 years old at the close of the taxable year may subtract up to \$100,000 of income received by the individual during the taxable year.

Pope Francis tells us, *"A population that does not take care of the elderly and of children and the young has no future, because it abuses both its memory and its promise."* The dignity of the human person is one of the core principles in catholic social teaching. Thus, it is a moral imperative that we provide safeguards for our most vulnerable populations such as centenarians.

The Conference supports Senate Bill 319 because it puts the needs of the elderly first. When encouraging the pursuit of the common good, Pope Francis has said, *"It means protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need, who are often the last we think about."* Senate Bill 319 is a worthy endeavor in the pursuit of the common good for our most vulnerable populations.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 319.