



**Senate Bill 61 – Property Tax Credit - Public Safety Officer - Definition**

**Position: Support**

The Maryland REALTORS® supports SB 61 which alters the eligibility and definition of "public safety officer" for property tax credit and additionally repeals the fixed amount of the credit which currently may not exceed the lesser of \$2,500 per dwelling.

This bill would allow for counties and municipalities to determine and extend the definition of public safety officer to also include individuals within those localities who were precluded from taking advantage of this financial incentive based on the current law.

Recently, Maryland REALTORS® conducted a State of Housing 2023 poll among registered voters. Results from this survey found that three-quarters of Maryland voters feel that the costs to purchase a home in Maryland is too high and 62% of those employed full time are still unable to make enough to afford a home. Additionally, almost 30% of registered voters would consider relocating to another state due to the high housing costs in Maryland.

SB 61 would allow local governments a mechanism to expand this tax credit to officers who serve and protect these local communities which would incentive these individuals from relocating to another state.

REALTORS® respectfully ask for your support of Senate Bill 61.

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