



House Bill 508

Property Tax Credit - Disabled Law Enforcement Officers and Rescue Workers - Definition and Eligibility

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: February 14, 2023

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 508. The bill alters eligibility criteria of an existing local option property tax credit by requiring local governments to define, by law, who is a law enforcement officer or rescue worker for the purpose of the credit.

MACo generally supports legislation that provides broad authority to enact tax incentives for revitalization and tax relief purposes, and welcomes the opportunity to work with state policymakers to develop flexible and optional tools to create broad or targeted tax incentives. Counties prefer the approach offered by HB 508 as it provides local autonomy to determine the best way to provide these incentives, rather than those that mandate reductions in local revenue sources.

Current law enables local governments to grant a property tax credit for an eligible disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker, surviving spouse, or a cohabitant. Additionally, local governments may provide, by law, for the amount and duration of the credit and, if necessary, additional eligibility criteria. By granting counties full flexibility to determine eligibility for the credit, HB 508 will allow each jurisdiction that chooses to enact the credit to tailor it to their specific community needs. Additionally, it gives each county broad discretion to determine how much revenue it is willing to forego to provide the desirable benefits enabled by the bill.

HB 508 ensures local governments have flexibility in enacting local policies designed to serve and react to community needs. Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for HB 508.