

**Letter of Information – House Bill 538 – Income Tax - Subtraction Modification - Water  
Affordability Assistance**  
*Ways and Means Committee*  
*February 16, 2023*

- House Bill 538 would create a subtraction modification for certain water affordability assistance, including water bill arrearage forgiveness.
- The Comptroller recommends amending the bill to require the localities to submit the required data to the Comptroller periodically and without a request from the Comptroller. The following amendment is suggested:

**(2) ~~ON REQUEST, A~~ A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT ADMINISTERS A WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COMPTROLLER, ~~WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE REQUEST~~ FOR EACH QUARTER DURING THE YEAR THE UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDES THE WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSISTANCE, AND IN THE MANNER REQUESTED BY THE COMPTROLLER, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:**

As always, the Comptroller's Office is willing and available to discuss these concerns or any questions you may have at your convenience. Please contact Justin Hayes, Legislative Director at [jhayes@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:jhayes@marylandtaxes.gov) or 410-260-7696.

