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**HEARING DATE:** March 26, 2024

**BILL:** SB0289

**TITLE:** State Department of Assessments and Taxation - Office of the Director - Administrative Expenses

**SDAT POSITION:** SUPPORT

The Department of Assessments and Taxation supports Senate Bill 289 - State Department of Assessments and Taxation - Office of the Director - Administrative Expenses. This legislation would allow the Department to utilize 15% of a special fund towards administrative expenses of the Office of the Director.

Currently, funds from fees associated with expedited business filings are placed into a non-lapsing special fund, 5% of which the Department is authorized to use for administrative expenses. Despite the Department's continued efforts to modernize and accommodate ever-growing demands for its services, current funding levels do not adequately cover existing procurement needs.

Senate Bill 289 provides the Department more budgetary flexibility to spend revenue generated by its services by allowing it access to funding without increasing fiscal demands on the State. This funding will be used to support essential administrative functions such as procurement, education, and communications for the benefit of the public. Furthermore, the Department intends to use some of these funds towards securing parking for its employees in its new Headquarters. Currently, one in three employees have dedicated parking spaces, and many have indicated that those accommodations would not be sufficient.

Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 289.