

**Letter of Information on HB248/SB576  
Property Tax - Assessment Appeal Boards and Supervisors - Regional Organization  
Ways and Means Committee  
Budget and Tax Committee  
February 2, 2024**

**What this bill does:**

- This legislation modifies the current statutory requirement for the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to maintain office space and employees in each Maryland county.
- Rather than maintaining a footprint in each of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions to carry out appeals of tax assessments, this legislation permits SDAT to instead house its employees ("supervisors of assessments," and others) among eight regional offices located appropriately throughout the state – allowing the agency to reduce costs while maintaining access to services.

**Why this bill matters:**

- As a similarly-situated tax collecting agency with multiple branch offices across the state, the Comptroller's Office is very familiar with the need to balance accessibility and services to taxpayers with finite resources and increasing costs.
- SDAT has worked with its partners at the local and county levels to balance access for taxpayers with the appropriate use of state resources, and I believe this legislation will allow the agency to strike an appropriate balance without reducing vital services.



Brooke Lierman  
Comptroller of Maryland

