

**Letter of Support****House Bill 634 – Income Tax – Income Tax Reconciliation Program – Establishment (The Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act)**

Ways &amp; Means Committee

February 6, 2025

The Office of the Comptroller would like to thank Delegate Wims and Delegate Mireku-North for introducing House Bill 634, the Maryland Fair Taxation for Justice-Involved Individuals Act.

**What the bill does:** HB634 establishes the Income Tax Reconciliation Program, which offers incarcerated individuals a structured pathway to address unpaid income tax obligations accumulated during their incarceration. A crucial feature of the program is the mandatory waiver of all interest and penalties that have accrued on these tax obligations during incarceration, offering a fresh start for individuals reentering society.

**Why it is important:** The Office of the Comptroller administers several programs, including the Offer-in-Compromise and Low-Income Hardship Programs, that provide flexible payment options and relief from penalties and interest for eligible taxpayers. HB634 ensures that returning citizens will be able to access these valuable resources, which is important, especially for communities of color that continue to be disproportionately impacted by incarceration. Individuals who have completed their sentences should not be weighed down by expanding tax debts. By empowering returning citizens to engage actively in society, we foster financial stability for families, stimulate local businesses through increased consumer spending, and catalyze economic revitalization in underserved neighborhoods.

Additionally, the Office of Public Engagement and the newly established Office of the Taxpayer Advocate will play key roles in helping justice-involved individuals access these vital programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Stephen Harrington, Director of Government Affairs, at [SHarrington@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:SHarrington@marylandtaxes.gov).



Brooke E. Lierman  
Comptroller of Maryland



