

WES MOORE
Governor

ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor



DANIEL K. PHILLIPS
Director

ROBERT YEAGER
Deputy Director

HEARING DATE: January 21, 2025

BILL: HB0006

TITLE: State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images

SDAT POSITION: SUPPORT

The Department of Assessments and Taxation supports House Bill 6 - State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Department of General Services - Property Appraisal Aids - Geographic Images. This legislation would allow the Department to lease state-of-the-art oblique aerial photographic imagery to generate more accurate real property assessments.

Emerging technologies have provided the Department with opportunities to continue to do more with less while delivering world-class services for the People of Maryland. Oblique Aerial Photography uses top-angle images taken by plane to take accurate measurements of properties without the need for assessors to physically inspect that property. In a study conducted by the Department, it was found that the use of this technology could uncover an additional \$1.4 billion in additional assessable base that had previously not been captured by local revenues. Revenues generated by the use of this technology would net more than \$14 million for counties across the state.

Oblique aerial technology can, on average, perform work in one hour that would normally take an assessor three hours to complete on average. The time savings would free up assessors to focus on more complicated assessments, assessment appeals, and portions of the State that are more densely populated with properties and have a higher need for personnel attention than others. House Bill 6 strengthens the Department's efforts to modernize and find more efficient methods of conducting assessments and deliver accurate information to counties.

Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 6.

Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
700 E Pratt Street Suite 2100 Baltimore, MD 21202
1-888-246-5941 TTY: 1-800-735-2258