



House Bill 919

State Tax Credits, Exemptions, and Deductions - Alterations and Repeal

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: March 4, 2025

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 919, which strips counties of essential economic development tools at a time of fiscal uncertainty and rising costs.

This bill repeals or phases out proven incentives to attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen local economies. Without these programs, counties will lose a competitive edge in securing business growth and sustaining economic opportunity.

Counties work directly with businesses, workforce boards, community colleges, and community stakeholders to drive local and regional economic growth. Programs like the Job Creation Tax Credit, One Maryland Tax Credit, Enterprise Zone Tax Credit, and Opportunity Zone Enhancement Program drive private-sector investment, particularly in underserved and economically distressed areas.

These incentives create jobs, attract businesses, and support long-term economic growth. Repealing them without adequate replacements weakens Maryland's ability to compete for investment and build a stronger economy.

Maryland's budget challenges and economic shifts demand more innovative strategies, not the elimination of proven tools that support growth. Repealing these programs forces counties to navigate economic uncertainty with fewer resources, limiting their ability to respond to business needs and workforce demands. This broad-brush approach disregards the critical role of these incentives in attracting employers and bolstering local economies.

Counties support practical, results-driven economic policies that sustain long-term investment and job creation. HB 919 undermines those efforts by eliminating programs that have delivered results across the state.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 919.