



## House Bill 842

### *Property Tax Credit – Surviving Spouse of Military Service Member*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: April 2, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** HB 842. As amended, this bill authorizes county and municipal governments to grant, by local law, a property tax credit for the dwelling of a surviving spouse of a military service member who does not qualify for the existing exemption under Tax-Property § 7-208.

MACo supports providing meaningful relief to eligible residents, and many counties already offer locally adopted property tax relief in addition to existing exemptions. This bill preserves local authority to determine whether to offer a credit and how to structure it based on local fiscal capacity and community priorities.

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for county governments and support core services such as education, public safety, infrastructure, and public health. By making the credit optional, the bill avoids a mandated reduction in local revenues and allows each jurisdiction to balance tax relief with funding for essential services.

The bill appropriately authorizes counties to set the amount and duration of the credit, establish eligibility requirements, and adopt administrative procedures, allowing each jurisdiction that enacts the credit to tailor it to their community needs. Additionally, it allows counties to decide how much revenue they are willing to forego to provide the desirable benefits enabled by the bill.

For these reasons, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 842.