

HB1096 Written Testimony.pdf

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Position: FAV

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Environment and Transportation
Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

House Bill 1096, Property Tax Credits – Notice Through Property Tax Bill, requires each county tax collector to include with the property tax bill a website address or quick-response (QR) code for a county government webpage that lists each property tax credit available to taxpayers in the county and a brief explanation of how to apply for the tax credits.

This proposal addresses a gap that many homeowners experience quietly. Maryland offers a range of property tax credits intended to protect housing stability and ease financial strain, yet too many residents never benefit simply because they do not know these programs exist. For seniors on fixed incomes, working families managing rising costs, and homeowners navigating financial uncertainty, a property tax bill can be a source of stress. In many cases, homeowners open their tax bill believing the amount due is fixed, unaware that a credit may exist that could ease that burden and help them remain stable in their homes. House Bill 1096 ensures that, at that critical moment, residents are not only reminded of what they owe but also informed of what support may be available to them.

HB1096 strengthens the impact of existing relief by ensuring that information reaches the people these programs were designed to help. Providing notice alongside a tax bill is a practical and compassionate step. It respects the reality that not every homeowner has the time, resources, or familiarity with government systems to search for assistance on their own. A clear notice can be the difference between a missed opportunity and meaningful relief. Greater awareness leads to greater access, and improved access helps these policies achieve their intended purpose.

HB1096 promotes transparency, reinforces trust in the property tax system, and affirms that relief programs should be accessible in practice, not just in statute. At its heart, this bill is about fairness and the belief that residents should not struggle unnecessarily when support already exists.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 1096.

Very Truly Yours,
Jeffrie E. Long, Jr.
Delegate Jeffrie E. Long Jr.