



HB989 State Assistance for the Elderly - Calculation of Income

Position: Favorable

March 5, 2026

The Honorable Heather Bagnall, Chair
Health Committee
240 Taylor Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401
Cc: Members of the Committee

Chair Bagnall and members of the Ways and Means Committee,

Economic Action urges a favorable report on HB989 which establishes that for the purposes of providing tax credits and other assistance to older adults, the income derived from renting space in one's home will not be included in the income calculations.

As Maryland's population ages, 70% of older adults want to age in place. However, as the cost-of-living has increased, with prices skyrocketing 25% since 2020, people are seeking a number of ways to reduce costs or increase income. Shared housing is one of the many flexible solutions that older adults are considering to increase their economic security and expand their support network. In fact, Longevity Maryland discusses [homesharing](#) as one option for older adults.

From our work with our Securing Older Adult Resources (SOAR) clients, we know that the homeowners and renters tax credits provide a critical boost to many older adults economic security. HB989 will support older adults' economic security by ensuring that homesharing benefits elders rather than causes them to lose important benefits.

For all these reasons, we support HB989 and urge a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director

Economic Action (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) champions economic rights and housing justice through advocacy, research, consumer education, and direct service. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

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