

JHEANELLE WILKINS
Legislative District 20
Montgomery County

Chair, Ways and Means Committee

Rules and Executive Nominations
Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

HB542 - Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 542, Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility.**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one of the best poverty-reducing measures the General Assembly has at its disposal. It has proven itself hugely impactful on economic, behavioral, and health outcomes for low to moderate-income workers while also providing a strong return on investment to the state of Maryland. It is estimated that for every dollar the state spends on EITC, \$1.23 comes back to our local economy as recipients spend it on necessities such as groceries, housing, transportation, and debt.

This legislation seeks to expand the eligibility of the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit by raising the maximum income requirement for single filers. House Bill 542 would allow certain individuals without qualifying children to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. It would also adjust the Earned Income Tax Credit for inflation each year as determined by the Comptroller of Maryland.

This would bridge financial gaps for Marylanders who are otherwise unable to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit. I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 542, Earned Income Tax Credit – Individuals Without Qualifying Children – Eligibility.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins