

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

January 20, 2026

Ann F. Elliott
President

The Honorable Delegate Jheanelle K. Wilkins
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee
House Office Building
Room 131

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Annapolis, MD 21401

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Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals

Michael S. McIlhargey
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Re: House Bill 290 Buy Maryland Cybersecurity Tax Credit

Andrea Foster
Delegate

Chair Wilkins and Members of the Committee,

Keila Hill-Trawick
Delegate

The Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals represents over 1,400 tax and accounting professionals who collectively serve more than 400,000 Maryland taxpayers and small businesses. We respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to House Bill 290.

Nicole Moore
Delegate

While cybersecurity investment is important, House Bill 290 significantly expands a refundable tax credit without corresponding safeguards or enhanced review mechanisms. Removing the expert panel, increasing credit caps, and making the credit refundable raise concerns about program oversight and fiscal exposure.

Anthony Pelura
Delegate

John Salan
Delegate

Refundable credits carry higher compliance and audit risks, particularly when eligibility depends on detailed factual determinations regarding seller status, ownership structure, and qualifying services. These risks may increase the administrative burden for both taxpayers and State agencies.

Donya Oneto
Past President

We encourage the Committee to consider whether program expansion should be paired with stronger oversight and performance metrics or a more gradual increase in caps to ensure the credit achieves its goals without unintended consequences.

Bob Medbery
Board of Trustees Delegate

Giavante' Hawkins
Executive Director

For these reasons, the Maryland Society of Accounting and Tax Professionals respectfully urges an Unfavorable Report on House Bill 290.

Respectfully submitted

Giavante Hawkins

Giavante' Hawkins

