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Chair, Ways and Means Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

FEBRUARY 24, 2026

House Bill 1142 - Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 1142 - Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures**, a statewide, time-limited study that brings State and local experts together to modernize the fiscal foundation of Maryland's counties and municipalities.

Maryland has evolved significantly since the 1960s, becoming a hub for technology, healthcare and entertainment, yet our local revenue structure has remained largely unchanged. Our counties, Baltimore City, and the 157 municipalities are being asked to meet present day challenges using a fiscal toolbox designed more than sixty years ago. This growing mismatch between modern responsibilities and outdated revenue tools poses risk to the long-term fiscal health of the entire state. We cannot have a strong Maryland without fiscally healthy local governments.

HB 1142 is a responsible, data-driven approach. It does not raise taxes, instead bringing together State and local experts to examine current revenue structures, elevate options used in other states, and assess impacts on affordability and cost of living. The Task Force will report their findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by December 1, 2026, setting a clear roadmap for action in the 2027 session.

I'm proud to introduce House Bill 1142 to ensure that our local governments have sustainable, and equitable fiscal frameworks that support strong communities and a strong state.

For these reasons, I urge your **favorable vote** on **House Bill 1142 - Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures**.

Sincerely,

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

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins