

**WES MOORE**  
Governor

**ARUNA MILLER**  
Lt. Governor



**ROBERT YEAGER**  
Director

**ERIC ANDERSON**  
Deputy Director

**HEARING DATE:** February 17, 2026

**BILL:** House Bill 753

**TITLE:** Tax Sales - Homeowner Protections - Revisions

**SDAT POSITION:** SUPPORT

The Department of Assessments and Taxation **SUPPORTS** House Bill 753 - Tax Sales - Homeowner Protections - Revisions. This bill would allow individuals to dedicate a representative for communications with the Tax Sale Ombudsman, expand households which are eligible for the Homeowner's Protection Program, and establish a process to withhold from tax sale properties owned by individuals with a terminal illness or medical hardship.

From its inception, the Homeowner's Protection Program's focus has been to assist individuals who have had trouble paying property taxes and are at risk of losing their homes. These individuals tend to be elderly homeowners who have trouble with paperwork, and individuals who are sick and cannot meet their property tax obligations due to medical costs. The Department's HPP team, under the Tax Sale Ombudsman, works closely with enrollees to ensure that the necessary paperwork is in. At times, these individuals still require a representative to assist with more complex processes and keeping track of requirements and repayment.

The Department stands ready to implement House Bill 753 utilizing existing resources and is grateful to the sponsor for bringing forward this important legislation. Accordingly, the Department respectfully requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 753.