



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

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The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland offers its strong and favorable support for House Bill 363/Senate Bill 468 (HB363/SB468) – Income Tax - Local Child Tax Credit - Authorization. HB 363/SB 468 authorizes counties and the City of Baltimore to establish their own local Child Tax Credit to support families in need.

This legislation allows local governments the flexibility to set the credit amount while streamlining administration by mirroring the eligibility criteria of the Maryland Child Tax Credit. Parents or guardians may pay less county income tax for children who qualify, reducing the tax burden and allowing families to save additional money.

Childhood poverty remains a pressing challenge in Maryland, with 11 percent of children living in poverty and one in three children in households struggling to afford food or housing. Growing up in poverty is linked to lifelong disadvantages, including poorer health outcomes, lower educational attainment, and reduced earnings in adulthood.

Research shows that targeted financial support can meaningfully improve these outcomes. A 2025 report by Columbia University found that in many cities, a local child tax credit of \$1,000 or less per child could reduce child poverty by 25 percent, while credits of \$3,000–\$4,000 could cut poverty in half. Baltimore was among the cities studied, and the findings indicate that a local Child Tax Credit could significantly reduce poverty when combined with state and federal credits.

HB 363/SB 468 directly supports child welfare by providing financial relief to families, helping them cover expenses for education, healthcare, and other needs. This bill ensures that families can have more stable households, focus on children's well-being and development, and improve the quality of life for Black Marylanders and all communities.

For these reasons, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland strongly supports HB 363/SB 468.

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland