



## House Bill 1482

### *Property Tax - Credit for Dwelling House of Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses - Revisions*

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Ways and Means Committee

Date: March 3, 2026

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** HB 1482. This bill converts an existing local-option property tax credit into a mandatory statewide requirement and significantly expands its scope.

MACo supports providing meaningful relief to eligible residents, and many counties already offer locally adopted property tax relief. However, this bill creates a significant unfunded mandate by requiring counties to provide and expand a property tax credit that current law leaves to local discretion, while increasing both eligibility and benefit levels. It directly reduces counties' primary revenue source – property taxes – while counties remain responsible for funding education, public safety, infrastructure, and other core services.

Property taxes form the foundation of county budgets and provide the stable funding stream that supports the services residents rely on every day. This bill erodes that stability by removing additional value from the local tax base and requiring counties to absorb permanent revenue losses without the ability to adjust local policy or replace the lost funding.

This proposal comes at a time when counties face sustained fiscal pressure from cost shifts and unfunded mandates. For the year ahead alone, State budget-balancing actions pose roughly \$200 million of effects squarely on county budgets. Those costs fall directly on local budgets even as counties confront ever-increasing mandates for education funding, rising resident service demands and limited revenue flexibility.

HB 1482 represents another State-mandated, locally funded initiative that disregards the fiscal constraints of county governments. For these reasons, MACo respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 1482.