



February 28, 2012

The Honorable Sheila E. Hixson, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
131 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 565 – Homestead Property Tax Credit – Eligibility – Child Support Payments

Dear Chairman Hixson:

House Bill 565 - Homestead Property Tax Credit – Eligibility – Child Support Payments, would suspend an individual's Homestead Property Tax Credit if he/she is in arrears of paying child support by \$150 or more. Although MACo has not taken a position on this bill, we worked very closely with the sponsor to mitigate the affect on county governments and appreciate his willingness to do so.

Through working with the sponsor, the State Department of Assessments and Taxation, and the Child Support Enforcement Administration, a process has been developed to provide for the annual certification of the Homestead Property Tax Credit. This certification would occur before SDAT sends any data to the counties to generate property tax bills and if an individual becomes eligible for the credit after that date, the credit would not be reinstated until the following tax year. This annual process is very similar to the one that occurs now when credits are suspended and reinstated for those in the military and would not be onerous for counties to administer.

MACo would again like to express its appreciation to the sponsor for addressing its concerns. Please contact me if I can provide additional information or respond to questions.

Respectfully yours,

Andrea Mansfield
Associate Director

cc: Members, Ways and Means Committee
Jason E. Weintraub, Committee Staff