

# News Release

## Governor Moore Signs Comptroller Lierman's 2024 Legislative Package

*New laws prioritize equity, modernization, and taxpayer protections*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md. (May 16, 2024)** — Comptroller Brooke Lierman joined Maryland Gov. Wes Moore as he signed six bills into law that made up the Comptroller's 2024 legislative package. The measures passed during the 2024 legislative session with bipartisan support from the Maryland General Assembly.

“The legislation signed by Governor Moore today is a key step toward a more modern, equitable, and efficient tax system for the people of Maryland,” said Comptroller Lierman. “I want to thank the General Assembly and Governor Moore for allocating the resources needed to provide low-income individuals and families with tax assistance, protect Marylanders from predatory and fraudulent tax preparers, support online tax filing, and close the tax gap to make Maryland more equitable, resilient, and prosperous.”



*Comptroller Lierman (top row, third from left) with members of Team Comptroller, Senate President Bill Ferguson, Governor Wes Moore, and House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones.*

## **Legislation Signed into Law**

### **HB845/SB1105: Individual Income Tax Credit Eligibility Awareness Campaign**

Many of the most impactful tax credits the General Assembly has created, particularly those aimed at supporting children, families, and seniors, are underutilized. Data indicates that effective outreach and education resources could significantly shrink the gap between those eligible for tax credits and those claiming them. This bill creates a recurring appropriation of \$300,000 to support targeted outreach and education on personal income tax credits. This law will take effect July 1, 2024.

### **HB455/SB677: Electronic Tax and Fee Return Filing Requirements**

An agency-wide modernization effort is underway in the Comptroller's Office that aims to improve the quality, transparency, and reliability of the services delivered to the public. This bill supports that effort by establishing a gradual process to move all tax filings online. By creating a timeline with ample time for businesses and individuals to prepare to file online and with adequate exemptions and safeguards built in, this bill will provide significant benefits to Maryland taxpayers. This law will take effect July 1, 2024.

### **HB451/SB676: Tax Assistance for Low-Income Marylanders**

The tax filing process can be confusing and even intimidating for many Marylanders. This bill provides funding support for Low-Income Tax Clinics and the CASH Campaign and creates a grant program to incentivize mobile or on-demand tax clinics in underserved or under-resourced areas. This law will take effect July 1, 2024.

### **HB452/SB675: Stop Scam Tax Preparers Act**

The Office of the Comptroller has noticed an uptick in the victimization of taxpayers, particularly elderly and immigrant communities, by those they have turned to for help navigating Maryland's complex tax laws. This bill has three key components meant to protect Maryland taxpayers:

- Mandates information sharing between the Office of the Comptroller and the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers (MBITP) within the Department of Labor (DOL) when either body takes disciplinary action against an individual.
- Directs the MBITP to develop and publish a code of ethics and rules of professional conduct for individual tax preparers registering in Maryland.
- Authorizes the Comptroller's Field Enforcement Bureau to pursue financial penalties against individuals engaging in scams and unregistered tax preparation services.

This law will take effect on October 1, 2024.

### **HB454/SB679: Disclosure of Tax Information- Tax Compliance Activity and Binding Data Use Agreements**

To help close the “Tax Gap” – the multi-billion-dollar difference between what the State of Maryland is owed in taxes and what is paid – the Comptroller’s Office needs to partner with other public and private entities with expertise in complex tax compliance. These relationships will help level the playing field and balance the state’s budget, ensuring adequate protections are in place for confidential tax data is critical. This bill authorizes the Office of the Comptroller to enter into data-sharing arrangements with outside entities. This law will take effect on July 1, 2024.

### **HB453/SB678: Income Tax Technical Corrections**

Bill repealed certain obsolete provisions of law concerning the distribution of income tax revenue. The bill also corrected erroneous cross-references. This law will take effect on July 1, 2024.

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