



COMMISSION ON AGING

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Anne R. Kaiser
House Office Building, Room 131
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: SB 427

Dear Delegate Kaiser:

The Montgomery County Commission on Aging (COA) strongly supports SB 427, a bill that would assist seniors in Maryland by modifying current limits on seniors' eligibility to claim local property tax credits – thereby easing the tax burdens that many of our states' older citizens face.

SB 427 is pending before the House Ways and Means Committee after it was unanimously passed by the Senate. Similar expeditious action by the House would make a meaningful difference in the lives of many seniors throughout our state. Accordingly, the Commission on Aging urges the Committee to favorably report the bill to the House of Delegates.

Under current Maryland law, in order to be eligible for tax credits made available by local governments to individuals age 65 and older, the individual must have lived *in the same dwelling* for at least the preceding 40 years. SB 427 would modify that requirement by providing that the older individual *must have lived in the same county* for the preceding 25 years; the dwelling for which the tax credit is claimed must be located in that county. Other provisions of the current statute remain the same: the amount of the property tax credit may not exceed 20% of the county or municipal property tax imposed on the property and may be granted for up to five years. The bill would take effect June 1, 2018; it would apply to taxable years beginning June 30, 2018.

COA believes that prompt passage of this legislation, which benefits older adults, minimizes the stress on the very limited supply of affordable housing, and strengthens the fabric of the larger community, is important at a time when so many seniors are struggling financially to continue to live in their homes. We urge the Ways and Means Committee to approve SB 427.

Thank you for your consideration of the Commission on Aging's letter of support for SB 427.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Schoenfeld, Chair
Commission on Aging

cc: Senator Gail Bates
Montgomery Delegation

Department of Health and Human Services

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