

HOUSE BILL 735

Q3

6lr2360
CF 6lr2802

By: Delegate Palakovich Carr

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Earned Income Tax Credit – Assistance Program Implementation Delay and**
3 **Study**

4 FOR the purpose of delaying the implementation of the Earned Income Tax Credit
5 Assistance Program until a certain taxable year; requiring the Comptroller's Office,
6 on or before a certain date, to study and make recommendations regarding outreach
7 efforts to encourage eligible taxpayers to claim the State earned income tax credit;
8 requiring the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to make certain
9 recommendations concerning methods to assist low-income Marylanders with
10 claiming certain credits and obtaining certain assistance; and generally relating to
11 the State earned income tax credit.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Tax – General
14 Section 2–116
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
18 Chapter 110 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022
19 Section 2

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Chapter 111 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2022
22 Section 2

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Tax – General**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2–116.

2 (a) In this section, “Program” means the Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit
3 Assistance Program for Low–Income Families.

4 (b) (1) There is a Maryland Earned Income Tax Credit Assistance Program for
5 Low–Income Families.

6 (2) The purpose of the Program is to:

7 (i) identify residents who are eligible to claim the credit under §
8 10–704 of this article but have failed to claim the credit; and

9 (ii) provide residents identified under item (i) of this paragraph with
10 a streamlined mechanism to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article.

11 (3) The Comptroller shall administer the Program.

12 (c) (1) This subsection applies to a taxable year beginning after December 31,
13 [2024] 2029.

14 (2) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, the Comptroller shall provide,
15 as part of the Program, a form to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article to any
16 resident:

17 (i) for whom the Comptroller has received federal income tax return
18 information for a taxable year described in § 13–1104(c)(1) of this article;

19 (ii) whose wages were reported by the resident’s employer to the
20 Comptroller for that taxable year;

21 (iii) who the Comptroller determines, based on all available data,
22 may be eligible to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article for that taxable year;

23 (iv) who failed to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article for
24 that taxable year; and

25 (v) who is authorized to request a refund under § 13–1104(c)(1) of
26 this article.

27 (3) The Comptroller shall provide the form required under this subsection
28 no later than 45 days before the expiration of the statute of limitations for claiming a refund
29 under § 13–1104(c)(1) of this article.

30 (d) In processing the form to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article, the
31 Comptroller shall calculate the credit as though the resident elected to use the standard
32 deduction under § 10–217 of this article to compute Maryland taxable income.

1 (e) (1) The Comptroller shall notify each resident identified under subsection
2 (c)(2) of this section that the Program is a method of claiming the credit under § 10–704 of
3 this article available to eligible residents.

4 (2) The notification required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall
5 include:

6 (i) a description of the Program;

7 (ii) an explanation of the resident's eligibility for participation in the
8 Program;

9 (iii) an explanation that the resident's participation in the Program
10 is optional but subject to the limitation under subsection (d) of this section;

11 (iv) an explanation that, notwithstanding the provisions of this
12 section, the resident's participation in the Program is subject to the provisions of this article
13 relating to the filing of a tax return;

14 (v) the time by which the form must be completed and returned in
15 order to claim the credit under § 10–704 of this article; and

16 (vi) a statement that the resident may be eligible for, in a succeeding
17 taxable year:

18 1. the federal earned income credit under § 32 of the Internal
19 Revenue Code; and

20 2. the credit under § 10–704 of this article.

21 (f) On request by a resident, a tax collector shall waive any penalties or interest
22 on any assessment of tax due on the form provided to the resident under subsection (c)(2)
23 of this section unless the tax collector reasonably believes the resident knew or should have
24 known the tax was miscalculated.

25 (g) On or before December 31, [2025] 2030, and each December 31 thereafter
26 through December 31, [2030] 2035, the Comptroller shall report to the Governor and, in
27 accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

28 (1) the effectiveness of the Program in meeting the purpose specified in
29 subsection (b)(2) of this section and recommendations for potential statutory or
30 administrative changes to enhance participation in the Program;

31 (2) the number of claim forms provided to residents during the previous
32 fiscal year;

(3) the number of claim forms filed by residents during the previous fiscal year;

(4) the number of refundable credits provided to residents during the previous fiscal year; and

(5) the total amount of refundable credits provided to residents during the previous fiscal year.

7 (h) The Comptroller shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.

Chapter 110 of the Acts of 2022

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of [8] 13 years and 3 months and, at
11 the end of December 31, [2030] 2035, this Act, with no further action required by the
12 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Chapter 111 of the Acts of 2022

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of [8] 13 years and 3 months and, at
16 the end of December 31, [2030] 2035, this Act, with no further action required by the
17 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) The Comptroller's Office shall study and make recommendations regarding outreach efforts to encourage eligible taxpayers to claim the State earned income tax credit.

21 (b) In conducting the study required under subsection (a) of this section, the
22 Comptroller's Office shall:

(1) analyze the effectiveness of practices or forms of outreach in this State and in other states to assist eligible taxpayers to claim the State earned income tax credit;

(3) analyze the degree to which and manner in which Maryland's current earned income tax credit outreach efforts are reliant on federal data sharing;

30 (4) research existing or possible methods to conduct outreach efforts in the
31 absence of federal data sharing;

1 (5) analyze how Maryland Tax Connect might simplify filing for the State
2 earned income tax credit and encourage more eligible taxpayers to claim the credit;

3 (6) research changes to the filing process that generally could simplify
4 filing or encourage more eligible taxpayers to claim the credit;

5 (7) research the potential for privacy risks if the Comptroller's Office and
6 the Internal Revenue Service share data concerning the State earned income tax credit,
7 including whether the federal government might use the data shared by the Comptroller's
8 Office for the purposes of immigration enforcement;

9 (8) identify and analyze strategies that are most effective in advising
10 eligible taxpayers who previously filed taxes but failed to claim the State earned income
11 tax credit of their ability to claim the credit in future filing years;

12 (9) analyze which strategies are most effective in identifying and reaching
13 low-income taxpayers who are not required to file an income tax return and encouraging
14 those taxpayers to file and claim the State earned income tax credit;

15 (10) analyze opportunities for partnership between the Comptroller's Office
16 and State social service agencies for data sharing, outreach, and enhancing awareness of
17 the State earned income tax credit; and

18 (11) research whether employers who are required to notify their employees
19 about the State earned income tax credit need additional support or resources from the
20 Comptroller's Office in carrying out that duty.

21 (c) On or before December 1, 2026, the Comptroller's Office shall submit a report
22 of its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257
23 of the State Government Article.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) The Department of Service and Civic Innovation shall study and make
26 recommendations on how Maryland Corps participants might assist low-income
27 Marylanders with claiming the State earned income tax credit and other family-serving
28 tax credits and government assistance for which they may be eligible.

29 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of Service and Civic
30 Innovation shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the General
31 Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article.

32 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
33 1, 2026.