

**Letter of Information – Senate Bill 784 – Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act**

*Budget and Tax Committee  
February 14, 2024*

We greatly appreciate Senator Elfreth bringing this important piece of legislation. SB 784, the Comprehensive Community Safety Funding Act focuses on a critical area of need for the state – supporting organizations that serve on the front lines of addressing the impacts of gun violence, including the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, and dedicating funds to address community and firearm violence.

Under this legislation, the Office of the Comptroller would be responsible for building a new, complex tax type in our legacy tax system. We have set strategic to modernize existing legacy technology platforms and processes that have not been upgraded for decades. The current system is housed on a mainframe and is not nimble or easily updated – particularly for new or complex tax types. We are actively working toward ways to accomplish this and other goals of the General Assembly within the limitations that we are currently facing. We will continue to do so until we can operate Personal Income Tax within the new, integrated tax system, which is publicly known as Maryland Tax Connect.

We remain steadfast in our eagerness to work with the General Assembly to achieve its goals as intended while taking into account the technological and operational limitations that currently exist within the agency.

Given the challenges with our current, legacy tax processing system, we appreciate the bill sponsor's willingness to have ongoing conversations with our office to ensure the Comptroller's Office is able to implement this bill as intended and we anticipate continuing those conversations. We are committed to providing answers to the sponsor and the committee in an expedited fashion to assess operational impacts and limitations.

As always, the Comptroller's Office remains committed to supporting initiatives that benefit the community and look forward to working with you on this matter. Please contact Justin Hayes, Director of State Affairs at [jhayes@marylandtaxes.gov](mailto:jhayes@marylandtaxes.gov) or 410-260-7696, with any questions.

