



Advocacy Alert!

House Passes Amended Version of the Heritage Tax Credit. Action Needed on Senate Side!

The House Ways and Means Committee passed HB 309, which reauthorizes the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, in an amended format on March 30, 2009. The revised bill would continue the Tax Credit as an annual appropriation of funding through the State's annual budget and extends the program another four years. [Click here for an overview of the amended HB309](#) or [click here to view all the amendments](#).

The appropriation amount passed by the House for the Tax Credit is \$4.7 million, which is a further cut from last year's budget of \$10 million. The Senate Budget and Taxation Committee have approved level funding of \$10 million. The final figure will be worked out in Conference Committee.

The Senate bill, [SB 258](#), is still in committee and **your help is needed** to secure funding and the passage of key provisions. Concern still exists over the fiscal impact despite the findings of the recent [Abell Foundation Report](#) documenting the positive economic and environmental benefits of the Tax Credit.

- The State sees an \$8.53 return for every dollar invested by the state.
- The Tax Credit has facilitated the rehabilitation of 589 historic commercial buildings and 3,033 residential buildings, stimulating \$1.5 billion of private sector investment.
- Over its history, the Tax Credit is also estimated to have saved up to \$163 million dollars in infrastructure investments over new construction.

[Click here for more information on the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.](#)

TAKE ACTION!

Contact members of the [Senate Budget & Taxation Committee](#) and urge them to pass the reauthorization of the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program. Also, urge the Committee to hold to the appropriation figure of \$10 million in Conference Committee.

It is especially important to contact the **Presiding Officer and Committee Chair** to let them know how important the legislation is to your community. They are:

- [Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller](#)
 - Phone: (410) 841-3700, (301) 858-3700
 - Email: thomas.v.mike.miller@senate.state.md.us
- [Ulysses Currie, Senate Budget & Taxation Committee](#)
 - Phone: (301) 858-3127, (410) 841-3127
 - Email: ulysses.currie@senate.state.md.us

We are in the final days of the 2009 session of General Assembly and your swift response to this call for action is critical. Every voice is needed to ensure Maryland's most effective preservation, economic development and smart growth program continues to thrive.