

## MARYLAND BRIEFING

### **MONTGOMERY COUNCIL**

#### **New Tax Credit Will Aid Senior Citizens**

The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a property tax credit yesterday for senior citizens.

The credit builds on one approved by the county last year that applies to households with a maximum income of \$60,000 and assets of less than \$200,000, excluding the value of homes or retirement accounts. Last year, the average credit was \$900.

Under the new rules, households that qualify for the homeowners property tax credit program and are headed by someone 70 or older will be eligible for additional savings. Those homeowners will get a credit equal to 25 percent of what they will also receive under the existing program. The new rules will affect an estimated 2,750 homeowners.

"Due to rising assessments, there are plenty of people — especially seniors and those on fixed incomes — who may be relatively 'cash-poor' but 'house-rich,'" said council Vice President Marilyn Praisner (D-Eastern County), who sponsored the legislation. "This expansion will target more property tax relief to those 70 and over."

— Nancy Trejos