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## TAX CREDITS FOR SENIORS EXPANDED

The Montgomery County Council this week voted unanimously to expand the County's property tax credit program to give additional tax relief to eligible homeowners 70 years of age and older.

The State/County Homeowners Property Tax Credit Program was expanded last spring by the County Council. Eligible households who can earn up to \$60,000--and who have assets of less than \$200,000, not including their home or retirement accounts - can apply for a tax credit that averaged nearly \$900 last year.

The measure approved on Tuesday would add an additional 25 percent credit to households already receiving the State or County credit who are headed by owner-occupants at least 70 years old. It would benefit an estimated 2,750 County residents, according to County Department of Finance figures.

"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, who sponsored the legislation. "This expansion will target more property tax relief to those 70 and over."