

For immediate release:
June 1, 2018
Contact:
Fallon Patton
fallon.patton@maryland.gov
410-767-4884

SDAT Will Accept Late Filings from Ellicott City Businesses Through September 30

Real and Personal Property Assessment Relief Also Available

The <u>Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)</u> today announced that Annual Reports and Personal Property Tax Returns for businesses in Ellicott City that are due June 15 will now be accepted through September 30, 2018. This will allow Ellicott City businesses that are already in "good standing" to remain eligible to do business in the state while they begin to recover from the recent devastating flooding.

"Our administration has been working non-stop to provide immediate assistance to those impacted by these tragic events," said Governor Larry Hogan. "As we transition to helping the community move forward, this filing relief will help local businesses focus on what is most important without risking their ability to do business in Maryland."

The Department will automatically accept late filings from businesses in Ellicott City that are currently in "good standing," but the Department will also consider waiving penalties incurred by filing late for any similarly damaged businesses in Washington, Frederick, Baltimore, and Howard Counties. Additionally, SDAT staff has been educating residents and business owners whose real and personal property has been damaged that they may qualify to have their property assessments reduced, which would result in less taxes owed or a tax refund. In Ellicott City particularly, SDAT has joined other state, local, and federal agencies at Howard County's Disaster Assistance Center to provide this information to Marylanders in-person.

"Our staff is doing everything we can to assist local communities and inform Maryland residents and business owners of the relief SDAT can provide," said SDAT Director Michael Higgs. "For Ellicott City particularly, we are in close communication with the Howard County government and stand ready to send our assessors out to survey damage as soon as local officials say it is safe to do so."

If a business' principal office or personal property is located in Ellicott City, the Department will accept late filings through September 30 as long as it is currently in "good standing" status. This applies to about 2,000 entities that are current on filing their prior-year returns, and have already filed an extension from the standard April 16, 2018 filing date. The simplest and easiest method to file these annual reports is through Maryland Business Express, SDAT's award-winning platform for making annual filings, requesting copies of business documents, and creating a business online. You may also file by mail or in person at SDAT's West Preston Street Office in Baltimore City.

<u>Click here</u> for more information on filing Annual Reports and Personal Property Tax Returns, or <u>sign up</u> <u>for timely email</u> reminders about filing these important documents.