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HB 642

February 15, 2022

TO: Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 642 – Baltimore City – Homestead Property Tax Credit – Notice

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Members of the Delegation, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 642.

HB 642 would provide homeowners in Baltimore City with improved notification about their property taxes due and about the opportunity to apply for the Homestead Property Tax credit.

The bill requires the City to mail a letter to homeowners whose property taxes will increase by 10% or more and who have not applied for the Homeowners Property Tax Credit. It also requires the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to provide the City with the list of applicable homeowners.

It can be a financial shock to homeowners when they are faced with an increase in their property taxes after an assessment. Far too many homeowners miss out on applying for the Homeowners Property Tax credit which helps reduce the tax burden. HB 642 provides an additional mechanism to ensure homeowners are aware of the property tax increase and the ability to apply for the tax credit.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 642.