

HB522 sponsor testimony final.pdf

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

HB 522 St. Mary's County- Tax Sales- Auctioneer Expenses
FAVORABLE

This bill revises the Tax Article for the purpose of including the actual cost of an auctioneer fee for the tax sale of property 4 in St. Mary's County as an expense of the sale of the property.

Background:

St. Mary's County Treasurer's office had employed the faithful services of Homestead Auctioneers for decades. They had accepted the legislatively set rate of \$3.00 per sold property. However, during the pandemic this auctioneer house retired.

There was an immediate need to hold the 2021 Tax Sale Auction via a virtual format. RealAuction stepped up and agreed to hold our virtual auction for the legislative set amount of per sold property fee of \$3.00 in 2021 only.

RealAuction's regular rate for per sold property fee is currently \$10.00.

Reason for the bill:

The industry standard is to pass the per sold property fees on to the purchasing bidder, however, as the fee is by law limited to \$3.00 The county is only able to pass on \$3.00 of the \$10.00 fee.

Adjusting the legislation takes longer than the amount of time between annual tax sale auctions. If there is a rate increase in the future, St. Mary's County Treasurer will again be required to pay the difference in the increased amount to RealAuction.

The County is requesting the legislation be set to cover the actual cost of per sold property fees by the auctioneer to pass on to the successful bidders to meet any current or future rate increases.

The legislation is requested by the St. Mary's County Treasurer, and supported by both the St. Mary's County Board of County Commissioners and the St. Mary's County Delegation.

We ask that the Committee pass this bill out FAVORABLY.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Morgan".

Matt Morgan
Chair
St. Mary's County Delegation