

C Branch Testimony HB642.pdf

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Position: FAV

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Ways and Means Committee
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

CHAIR VANESSA ATTERBEARY VICE CHAIR ALONZO WASHINGTON

**HOUSE BILL 0642 : BALTIMORE CITY - HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT -
NOTICE**

SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 15, 2022

Good afternoon Chairwoman Atterbeary, and Vice Chair Washington. I come to you today to ask for your support for HB 642 – Baltimore City - Homestead Property Tax Credit - Notice. This bill would require Baltimore City to mail a certain notice of the homestead property tax credit to certain homeowners in Baltimore City whose dwellings have increased in value by more than 10%.

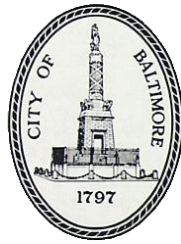
As you know many families are struggling to keep up with their property taxes in Baltimore City and are at risk for losing their homes to tax sale. The Homestead Property Tax Credit is a resource that would allow families to limit their tax burden, but countless homeowners simply aren't aware of the tax credit. In turn they're forfeiting the opportunity for the financial assistance that they may desperately need. This bill will help by notifying eligible Baltimore City homeowners of the tax credit, whose property taxes have increased by 10%, could help to prevent homeowners from going into tax sale (or foreclosure), and in turn, it would also help to reduce the addition to vacant properties in Baltimore City.

And therefore, I ask for a favorable report for HB 642. Thank you for your time.

HB0642-WM-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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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.