SENATE BILL 608

By: Senator Zucker
Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Report on the Public or Private Conversion of State Property to Affordable Housing

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Planning and the Department of General Services, in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development, to report to the Board of Public Works and certain committees of the General Assembly on strategies for the public or private development and use of surplus real property and excess real property retained for possible future use by the State as affordable housing; and generally relating to the planning and development of affordable housing.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) In this section, “transit–oriented development” and “transit station” have the meanings stated in § 7–101 of the Transportation Article.

(b) On or before June 30, 2023, the Department of Planning and the Department of General Services, in partnership with the Department of Housing and Community Development, shall report to the Board of Public Works and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee on strategies for the public or private development and use of surplus real property and excess real property retained for possible future use by the State as affordable housing.

(c) The report shall include:

(1) an inventory of improved and unimproved real property determined by the Board of Public Works to be in surplus of the needs of the State;

(2) an inventory of improved and unimproved real property retained for
possible future use by the State;

(3) recommendations to facilitate the public or private development and use of surplus real property and excess real property retained for possible future use by the State as affordable housing, including identification of specific properties;

(4) recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes needed to implement recommendations made under item (3) of this subsection; and

(5) an analysis of federal and State funds available for the conversion of existing public real property to affordable housing by public or private parties.

(d) (1) For the purpose of this subsection, improved or unimproved real property is considered to be near public transportation if:

(i) the property is in a transit–oriented development; or

(ii) any part of the property is located within one–half mile of the passenger boarding and alighting location of a planned or existing transit station.

(2) The report shall highlight properties and emphasize recommendations that facilitate the development of affordable housing near public transportation, existing commercial developments, and commercial developments for which all permits have been issued.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2024, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.