

ANTONIO HAYES  
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Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 27, 2020

Chairman Pinsky  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony of Senator Antonio Hayes in Support of SB946 Housing and Community Development - Neighborhood Revitalization - Passive House Pilot Program**

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Within Baltimore City, we are faced with challenges regarding affordable housing and vacant houses. Senate Bill 946 seeks to help alleviate some of those challenges by establishing the Passive House Pilot Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). Through the Passive House Pilot Program, students will take part in renovating vacant houses and all houses alike within close proximity of a high school located in Baltimore City, into certified passive houses. These passive houses are designed to meet the world's strictest energy efficient standards and follows a series of specified criteria and standards set by the Passive House Institute, that overall can ultimately reduce utility costs and provide affordable housing in the long-run.

Moreover, this bill also establishes the Passive House Pilot Program Fund that will cover the costs of the program. The fund will consist of money appropriated in the State budget, interest earnings, and any other money accepted for the benefit of the program.

Through the passage of this bill, not only will we be able to address some of the issues of affordable housing and vacant houses within Baltimore City, but we will also be able to provide students with career and technical educational experiences through this program, while building a great sense of community through this community-based approach.

**And for those reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 946.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
Chair, Baltimore City Senate Delegation  
40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District - MD