



## Maryland Municipal League

*The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns*

# TESTIMONY

February 11, 2020

**Committee:** House Ways & Means

**Bill:** HB 657 – Tax – Property – Tax Sales

**Position:** Support

**Reason for Position:**

The Maryland Municipal League supports HB 657. This bill requires a tax sale of a property if the tax has been in arrears for at least five years.

Many municipal governments are still struggling with vacant and/or blighted properties. Despite legal options available to them, municipalities are still frustrated by their inability to efficiently collect monies owed on blighted properties so that the properties can be resold and renovated. It is important that municipalities are provided as many tools as possible to enable them to expeditiously return vacant and abandoned properties to the tax rolls to avoid the properties falling into worse disrepair. The ability to sell a property at tax sale if the property tax is in arrears for at least five years would provide some relief not only for a municipality, but also for a neighborhood trying to address blighted and unsafe properties.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide HB 657 with a favorable report.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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