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HEARING DATE: March 29, 2023

BILL: HB0231

TITLE: Baltimore City - Property Taxes - Authority to Set a Special Rate for Vacant and Abandoned Property

SDAT POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

HB0231 Permits Baltimore City to set a special tax rate for certain real property parcels without creating a new subclass of real property. This legislation is similar to the concept that is currently allowed in Montgomery County, whereby Montgomery County has multiple special tax rates for certain real property parcels.

The Department notes that special rates are not included in calculations for the constant yield tax rate. Special rates such as fire district tax and recreation tax are in addition to the tax rates established in section (b) of this article.

The Department requests an amendment on Page 2, line 29, to state, "THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY MAY SET **AND ADMINISTER** A SPECIAL RATE FOR..."

This amendment will clarify that the Department should not create a class or subclass or track the properties for the special tax rate. The special tax rates can only be administered by Baltimore City, not by the Department.

For these reasons, SDAT urges a favorable with amendments vote on HB0231.