



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
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HB 93

January 31, 2023

TO: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Interim Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: House Bill 93 – Residential Ground Leases - Redemption and Extinguishment - Requirements

POSITION: Support

Chair Barve, Vice Chair Stein, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill 93.

HB 93 would repeal the prohibition against a tenant who is seeking to redeem or extinguish ground rent providing certain documentation and payments to the State Department of Assessments and Taxation earlier than 90 days after an application for redemption or extinguishment has been posted on the Department's website.

The Bill would allow Baltimore City to move forward with our administrative work on redemption and extinguishment of Ground Leases even if SDAT were to fall behind in posting the notices. Having SDAT expedite the processing of Baltimore City's SDAT redemption efforts would help the City unify the title to vacant lots and buildings it is acquiring for redevelopment, thereby advancing its goal to achieve blight elimination through community revitalization.

The passage of HB 93 would have minimal impact on Baltimore City operations. We do not anticipate a significant fiscal impact.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 93.