

ANTONIO HAYES
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Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1005: West North Avenue Development Authority

Dear Chairman Beidle and esteemed members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 1005, which aims to alter the administration and membership of the West North Avenue Development Authority. The group was founded in 2021 with the goals of housing, economic, transportation, and neighborhood development along West North Avenue between 600 - 3200 Block.

On Wednesday, January 31, 2024, the Authority submitted the West North Avenue Comprehensive Plan, which aims to advance restorative justice and community development by promoting strategies and equitable developmental opportunities that enhance housing, public space, mobility, and economic opportunity for this disadvantaged section of Baltimore City.

Senate Bill 1005 specifies the powers and duties of the Authority, subject to certain limitations. It also exempts the Authority from certain provisions of law, requires the Authority to take certain actions regarding the finances of the Authority, and exempts the Authority from certain taxation or assessments under certain circumstances. Senate Bill 1005 also establishes the West North Avenue Development Authority Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter, and I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill 1005.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD