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**HB 1255**

March 11, 2025

**TO:** Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** House Bill 1255 - Land Use - Historic Preservation Commission - Right of Appeal

**POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1255 **with amendments**.

HB 1255 would authorize a local jurisdiction to authorize any person aggrieved by a decision of a historic preservation commission to appeal the decision to the board of appeals of the local jurisdiction.

The BCA supports the intent of this bill which aims to ensure an appeal process for a party aggrieved by a decision of the local historic preservation commission. However, we recommend that the bill be amended to remove the specific directive that the arbiter for the appeal must be the local board of appeals. In the City of Baltimore, the enabling legislation for the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), the local historic preservation commission, directs that a person aggrieved by any decision of the Commission may seek judicial review of that decision by petition to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. We recommend that the language in HB 1255 be updated to require that each jurisdiction identify an arbiter for an appeal process for local preservation commission rulings, but not mandate that the local board of appeals be the arbiter for each jurisdiction.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable with amendments** report on HB 1255.