



SB192/HB59 Property Tax – Tax Sales – Revisions

Budget and Taxation Committee

Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2025

Time: 10:30 AM

Position: SUPPORT

Fight Blight Bmore’s (FBB’s) mission is to remediate blight through community projects and programs envisioned, directed, and owned by the community. An economic, environmental, and social justice organization, FBB believes that blight—manifested as vacant, abandoned, dilapidated, underutilized, and misutilized properties—has arisen from systemic racism, including disinvestment and depopulation, which has significantly decreased taxable properties in historically Black neighborhoods across the city. Tax sales have been a major driver of blight in Baltimore, particularly in Black neighborhoods. ***FBB supports SB192/HB 59 because its addresses critical inequities and vulnerabilities in the tax sale process.***

The bill will implement protections for citizens, especially those most vulnerable to tax sale. Key provisions, such as:

- withholding owner-occupied residential properties from tax sale when the owed amounts fall below a specified threshold
- limiting redemption rates for such properties
- extending eligibility for the Homeowners Protection Program to heirs

will be positively impactful for residents and neighborhoods by making it less likely that people can lose their homes from tax sale. Moreover, the bill includes measures to enhance transparency and accountability measures for the jurisdictions.

FBB supports SB 192 in its current form as it aligns with our commitment to social justice and the reduction of systemic inequities that perpetuate blight. By addressing tax sales as a driver of blight, this bill is a vital step toward stabilizing communities, preserving homeownership, and promoting equitable redevelopment in Baltimore and beyond.

For the above reasons,

The SOS Fund urges a favorable report.

Please contact Nneka Nnamdi, Founder, with any questions nneka@fightblightbmore.com

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