

May 24, 2019

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Madam Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have vetoed House Bill 161 – *Baltimore City – Tax Sales of Real Property – Water Liens (Water Taxpayer Protection Act of 2019)*.

This bill 1) permanently limits the authority of the Mayor and Baltimore City Council to conduct tax sale proceedings on properties to enforce liens for unpaid water and sewer service charges; 2) continues the exclusion of residential property from such a sale; and 3) newly excludes from such a sale real property that is exempt under certain provisions applicable to property used exclusively for public religious worship; or a parsonage or convent.

This bill also clarifies that the Mayor and Baltimore City Council may not conduct a tax sale proceeding to enforce another lien if the real property is residential or exempt from taxation under certain provisions as noted above.

Senate Bill 96, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 161.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor