

MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D
Legislative District 43
Baltimore City



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 102
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3145 · 301-858-3145
800-492-7122 Ext. 3145
Mary.Washington@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Chair

Joint Committee on Ending
Homelessness

Chair

Joint Committee on Children,
Youth, and Families

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Dear Colleagues,

I am introducing legislation titled:

***SB568 - Workgroup to Study:
Low – or-No – Interest Mortgage Program***

The need for this legislation was recognized during the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness interim meetings after receiving numerous reports around disproportionately high debt to income ratios surrounding housing security and homelessness.

During our meetings veterans and homeless advocates pointed to issues around homelessness and the challenges and barriers facing individuals experiencing homelessness in accessing affordable housing and housing services. The U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was represented at one of our later sessions and discussed competitive grants and other programs that could be utilized to combat homelessness.

SB568 would create a workgroup, consisting of representatives from: the Department of Housing and Community Development; the Department of Human Services; banks; realtors; mortgage lenders; and Habitat for Humanity. The goal of the group would be to identify funding streams that could provide mortgages with low or interest-free rates for families that pay a disproportionate percent of their income on housing.

The workgroup members shall:

- Examine issues around the lack of home ownership.
- Identify gaps in housing affordability.
- Explore options for providing low-or-no-interest mortgages to families that spend 30% or more of their income on housing.
- Explore best practices and income low – or no- Interest Mortgage or income eligibility programs.
- Establish a set of recommendations around this population

This bill would take effect on June 1, 2020 and requires that the finding and recommendations are presented to the Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness by December 31, 2020.

I ask for a favorable report on **SB568**. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Please contact my office at x3145 or email my office at mary.washington@senate.state.us.md if you would like to cosponsor this legislation.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mary Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and the last name "Washington" clearly distinguishable.

Senator Mary Washington, District 43