

STEPHANIE SMITH
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

House Chair
Baltimore City Delegation



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 316
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3486 · 301-858-3486
800-492-7122 Ext. 3486
Stephanie.Smith@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0867 – Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund
Hearing: February 17th, 2021**

Chairman McIntosh, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

Good afternoon Chair and Members of the Committee

On behalf of the Mayor of Baltimore City I have introduced HB 867 which would extend the sunset on the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund. The BRNI program, was established in 2013 to spur reinvestment in older communities that had an established and successful revitalization strategy.

In 2016, in the wake of the program was codified in law. The same bill created the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative Program Fund and required the Governor to include \$12 million in the annual budget for fiscal years 2018 – 2022 for neighborhoods in Baltimore City and in the inner Baltimore Beltway communities of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties.

These State funds significantly help leverage investments in a wide range of community projects including rehabs, acquiring vacant or blighted properties, energy improvements, strategic demolition, mixed-use developments, open space and infrastructure to name a few.

As you will hear from my panelist, the fund has been a successful tool to increase economic competitiveness and livability of the Baltimore region. Unfortunately, the fund is set to sunset next year.

HB 867 will ensure our region can continue to build upon the success of the program and benefit from the fund for an additional four more years. I urge and favorable report and will now turn it over to Acting Commissioner of the Baltimore City Department of Housing Alice Kennedy...

Sincerely,

Delegate Stephanie Smith