

ANTONIO HAYES
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2021

Testimony of Senator Antonio Hayes in Support of SB 636 - Housing and Community Development - Neighborhood Revitalization - Passive House Pilot Program

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Within Baltimore City, we are faced with challenges regarding affordable housing and vacant houses. Senate Bill 636 seeks to help alleviate some of those challenges by establishing the Passive House Pilot Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Through the Passive House Pilot Program, high school students from within Baltimore City will take part in renovating vacant houses and all houses alike within close proximity of a high school located in Baltimore City, into certified passive houses. These passive houses are designed to meet the world's strictest energy efficient standards and follow a series of specified criteria and standards set by the Passive House Institute, that overall can ultimately reduce utility costs and provide affordable housing in the long-run.

In its administration of the program, DHCD must solicit proposals from nonprofit organizations for the program that feature (1) the acquisition of one or more properties for renovation that are within close proximity of a high school; (2) renovation of the acquired property or properties by using components certified by the Passive House Institute and bringing the property or properties into compliance with the criteria for passive houses as established by the institute; (3) providing students, through the renovation process, career and technical educational experiences; and (4) ensuring that any renovated property is utilized to provide affordable housing in the neighborhood in which the property is located.

Moreover, this bill also establishes the Passive House Pilot Program funding mechanism that will cover the costs of the program. The purpose of the fund is to cover the following costs of the program: property acquisition costs, specified property renovation costs, and administrative costs.

Through the passage of this bill, not only will we be able to address some of the issues of affordable housing and vacant houses within Baltimore City, but we will also be able to provide students with career and technical educational experiences, while building a great sense of community.

And for those reasons, I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 636.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Antonio" being the most prominent part.

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District - MD