

February 15, 2022

Testimony on House Bill 509
House Ways and Means Committee
Baltimore City – Tax Sales – Nonprofit Entity–Owned Real Property

Position: Favorable

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of more than 1300 nonprofit organizations and institutions. We urge you to support House Bill 509 that would treat certain nonprofits already exempt from property taxes from being sold at tax sale in Baltimore City for liens due to unpaid water and sewer service bills.

Issues with accuracy of water and sewer bills in the City of Baltimore have led to numerous controversies, and have already resulted in statutory protection of other properties.

House Bill 509 would add protection for properties owned by nonprofits under a certain size that are already exempt from property taxes because of their use to further missions of public service. In doing this it would add these properties to residential property and houses of worship.

We believe that in recognition of the value and service these organizations provide to the community, and the fact the properties are already dedicated to public service and cannot be sold for private profit, it's entirely reasonable to provide the same protection that already exists for residential and those religious properties.

We urge you to give House Bill 509 a favorable report.