



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

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SB 543

February 16, 2022

TO: Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 543 - Property Tax - Constant Yield Tax Rate - Notice Requirements
POSITION: Support

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 543.

SB 543 is a simple but important bill. It clarifies the misleading notice requirements local governments must follow when posting real property tax rate advertisements by establishing separate notification requirements for when real property tax rates are increased and for when real property tax rates are being maintained.

Current law specifies the exact language local governments must use for advertisements. The one-size-fits-all language impresses upon residents that the real property tax rate is being raised even when it is *not* being raised or is being held constant. This creates unnecessary tensions between the local governments and their residents who erroneously believe their property tax rates are increasing. SB 543 improves the accuracy and transparency of the Constant Yield Tax Rate notification and advertisement requirements in an effort to prevent such misunderstandings.

For these reasons we respectfully request a **favorable** report on Senate Bill 543.