



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 21, 2023

Committee: House Ways and Means Committee

Bill: HB 779 – Tax Sales – Revisions

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 779, which would give local governments the tools to deal with properties blighted properties that arise from abandoned efforts to foreclose often vacant and dilapidated structures.

The current law effectively allows these properties to languish in the months and years after a certificate of sale is acquired, leading to the term “zombie properties.” The whole community benefits when they can be rehabilitated or demolished to foster new living spaces or businesses. HB 779 would allow local governments to be awarded a certificate of sale in certain cases to do achieve these goals.

As such, MML respectfully requests that this committee provide a favorable report on House Bill 779.

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