

Amendments to Council Bill 20-0593 “Tax Sales- Properties Exempt From Sale”

Amendments offered by Frank D. Boston III on behalf of Kenny Law Group and Maryland Tax Sale Participants Association

Amendment 1: On page three, line 31, after the words “A DWELLING”, add “THAT IS NOT SUBJECT TO ANY VALID ENCUMBERANCES, SUCH AS A MORTGAGE”

Rationale: We propose this amendment because properties subject to a mortgage already have their property taxes escrowed and paid by the mortgage holder. If the homeowner defaults on the mortgage payment, their house will be foreclosed on.

Amendment 2: On page three, line 1, after the words “AT LEAST” strike “3” and add “10”

Amendment 3: On page three, line 2, strike “EITHER:”

Amendment 4: On page three, line 3, after the words “OF LESS THAN”, strike “\$40,000;” and add “\$30,000; AND”

Amendment 5: On page three, line 4, after the words “IS AT LEAST”, strike “65 YEARS OLD; OR” and add “75 YEARS OLD; AND”

Amendment 6: On page three, line 7, after the words “SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME PROGRAM”, strike “.” and add “; AND”

Rationale: We propose amendments 2 - 6 because they further clarify the intent of the bill to protect people who have been in their property for a long period of time, truly have minimum income, and are in the age class of the most vulnerable and likely to lose their property due to hardship.

Amendment 7: On page three, after line 7, add “(3) ALL HOMEOWNERS OF RECORD MUST MEET THE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN (1) AND (2).”

Rationale: In furtherance of the aforementioned amendments and rationale, this amendment specifies that all conditions precedent are met. The purpose here is to eliminate the possibility of fraud by other relatives or family members who are simply trying to evade paying taxes.

Amendment 8: On page three, above line 8, add “(D) AN APPLICABLE HOMEOWNER UNDER THIS SECTION MUST DEMONSTRATE HARDSHIP, AND SHALL APPLY TO THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE FOR THIS EXEMPTION EVERY CALENDAR YEAR. IF AN APPLICABLE HOMEOWNER IS GIVEN RELIEF UNDER THIS SECTION AFTER PROOF OF A VALID HARDSHIP, THEN THEY SHALL BE GRANTED RELIEF UNDER THIS SECTION AND MAY NOT APPLY FOR RELIEF UNDER THIS SECTION FOR AT LEAST FIVE YEARS.”

Rationale: The purpose of this amendment is to truly help those who are experiencing sudden hardship and to further clarify that this law is not an annual tax exemption.

If you have any questions please contact Frank Boston at (410-323-7090)