



# PROGRESSIVE MARYLAND

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**Bill Title:** Council Bill [25-0036](#) - Property Taxes - Baltimore City Payment in Lieu of Taxes Task Force

**Position:** SUPPORT (FAV)

**To:** Budget & Appropriations Committee

**From:** Iman Habib, Climate Policy Analyst, Progressive Maryland

**Date:** 05/11/2025

Greetings President Cohen, Chair McCray, Vice Chair Schleifer, and members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee,

My name is Iman Habib and I am a Climate Policy Analyst with Progressive Maryland, a multi-racial, working class political organization that leverages grassroots organizing to develop powerful community leaders, achieve economic justice, and put an end to systemic oppression statewide. I am testifying in support of Council Bill 25-0036 with no weakening amendments.

As a resident of Baltimore City District 8 and also an alumna of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, I wholeheartedly recognize the importance of requiring anchor institutions such as Hopkins to financially contribute to the development and growth of the communities they are operating in. As someone with a public health background, I often consider the role of the social determinants of health in dictating poor health outcomes. I was alarmed to hear that 24% of Baltimore residents live below the poverty line; Baltimore has the highest number of overdose deaths per capita in the country; and that the City is suffering a housing affordability crisis. It is truly paradoxical for the number one research institution and number one public health school in the world to neighbor some of the most stark health disparities.

Hopkins is only 1 of 14 anchor institutions operating in Baltimore, all of which freeload off of city services such as policing, the fire department, transportation services and others. This is a disservice to Baltimore residents who are expected to pay taxes but see minimal improvements in their immediate living conditions.

Baltimore City's Payment in Lieu of Taxes, or PILOT, Program only requires these anchor institutions to allocate an aggregate \$6 million dollars per year to the City for public services. To put this into perspective, from the years 2016-2022, Johns Hopkins University's PILOT contributions were only 0.029% of their Operating Revenue—and that's just the university. For the Johns Hopkins Hospital and Bayview Medical Center, the PILOT contributions were 0.043%. Evidently, anchor institutions like Hopkins are contributing a miniscule fraction of their revenue toward community development which demonstrates the need for this bill.

Council Bill 25-0036 will establish a Fair Share PILOT Task Force and an equitable 2026 PILOT Agreement that creates a transparent process to ensure that anchor institutions pay their

fair share toward community services that help alleviate poverty; improve health outcomes and community health; provide affordable housing options for Baltimore residents; among others.

Progressive Maryland urges a favorable vote for Council Bill 25-0036 with no weakening amendments as we believe that anchor institutions should actively work toward maintaining and improving the health and well-being of the communities they operate in, not neglecting them.

Thank you for your consideration and time.