



BALTIMORE HOUSING

STEPHANIE
RAWLINGS-BLAKE
Mayor

PAUL T. GRAZIANO
Executive Director, HABC
Commissioner, HCD

MEMORANDUM

To: The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
c/o Natawna Austin, Executive Secretary

From: Paul T. Graziano, Commissioner

Date: December 18, 2015

Re: **City Council Bill 15-0585 – Tax Credits – Historic Properties**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) has reviewed City Council Bill 15-0585 for the purpose of extending the period within which applications may be accepted for an historic improvement tax credit; clarifying the definition of “eligible improvements”; restating the purpose and goal of this credit; modifying certain criteria for a credit limitation imposed on development projects that exceed a certain amount in construction costs; modifying certain procedures for adopting rules and regulations governing the credit; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to the property tax credit for improvements, restorations, and rehabilitations to historic properties.

If enacted, this bill would extend the application period for the historic improvement tax credit program for five years, from February 2016 to February 2021. The tax credit was first approved in December of 1995 and over the past 20 years has contributed to the preservation and revitalization of numerous historic properties in Baltimore. The tax credit program makes it possible for many residential and commercial property owners to invest in major rehabilitation/restoration projects that return underutilized properties to productive use and enhance the character of neighborhood historic districts.

The Department of Housing and Community Development supports the passage of City Council Bill 15-0585.

PTG:sd

cc: Ms. Angela Gibson, *Mayor's Office of Government Relations*
Mr. Colin Tarbert, *Deputy Mayor*

