

Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke, Henry, Bullock, Amell, Young, Scott, Middleton, Stokes

Prepared by: Department of Legislative Reference

Date: February 20, 2019

Referred to: **RESOLUTION** Committee

Also referred for recommendation and report to municipal agencies listed on reverse.

CITY COUNCIL 19-0140R

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

**Request for State Action - In Rem Foreclosure and Sale for Vacant and Abandoned Properties**

FOR the purpose of calling upon the General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation that would allow Baltimore City and other local jurisdictions to pursue *in rem* foreclosures against certain abandoned and vacant properties.

Handwritten signatures in blue, black, and red ink, including names like Margaret Clarke, Amell, and others.

**\*\*The introduction of an Ordinance or Resolution by Councilmembers at the request of any person, firm or organization is a courtesy extended by the Councilmembers and not an indication of their position.**

**Agencies**

_____	Baltimore City Public School System
_____	Baltimore Development Corporation
_____	City Solicitor
_____	Comptroller's Office
_____	Department of Audits
_____	Department of Finance
_____	Department of General Services
_____	Department of Housing and Community Development
_____	Department of Human Resources
_____	Department of Planning
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Department of Public Works
_____	Department of Real Estate
_____	Department of Recreation and Parks
_____	Department of Transportation
_____	Fire Department
_____	Health Department
_____	Mayor's Office of Employment Development
_____	Mayor's Office of Human Services
_____	Mayor's Office of Information Technology
_____	Office of the Mayor
_____	Police Department
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Board of Estimates
_____	Board of Ethics
_____	Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals
_____	Comm. for Historical and Architectural Preservation
_____	Commission on Sustainability
_____	Employees' Retirement System
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Environmental Control Board
_____	Fire & Police Employees' Retirement System
_____	Labor Commissioner
_____	Parking Authority Board
_____	Planning Commission
_____	Wage Commission
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____
_____	Other: _____

**Boards and Commissions**

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 19-0140R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Bullock, Burnett, President Young,  
Councilmembers Scott, Stokes, Middleton  
Introduced and adopted: February 25, 2019

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

**Request for State Action - *In Rem* Foreclosure and Sale for  
Vacant and Abandoned Properties**

FOR the purpose of calling upon the General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation that would allow Baltimore City and other local jurisdictions to pursue *in rem* foreclosures against certain abandoned and vacant properties.

**Recitals**

We are all familiar with Baltimore's struggle to seek a solution for the thousands of vacant and abandoned properties that are a blight on our neighborhoods and communities. Through the efforts of Vacants-to-Value and Project CORE, we are making progress, but the magnitude of the issue deserves an all-of-the above approach to truly combat it. House Bill 557 and Senate Bill 509, as cross-filed, authorizes local governments to pursue judicial *in rem* tax foreclosures against certain blighted properties and is another step in the right direction to removing blight from our communities.

H.B. 557 and S.B. 509 would allow Baltimore City to establish a judicial *in rem* process, eliminating the tax sale process on properties, structures, and lots that have unpaid liens for at least 6 months and are considered vacant and abandoned. This *in rem* process is a faster process and ensures vacant and abandoned properties with unpaid liens are made available for redevelopment. Often, these properties sit vacant for years going through the tax sale process and no one bids on them because the value of the liens are more than the value of the property. The *in rem* process allows for Baltimore City to foreclose on the property and make it available for redevelopment with clear title. Amendments will strengthen the bill to allow local jurisdictions to hold the property after the foreclosure sale.

The process outlined by H.B. 557 and S.B. 509 is an efficient and effective way to reduce the amount of blighted properties in Baltimore City and will build upon the work that other programs have been doing to help redevelop our communities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the Council calls upon the General Assembly to pass and the Governor to sign legislation that would allow Baltimore City and other local jurisdictions to pursue *in rem* foreclosures against certain abandoned and vacant properties.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House

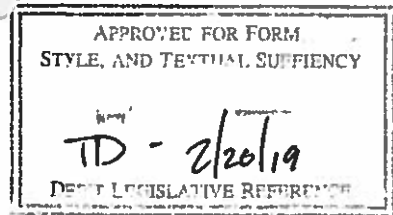
EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 19-0140R**

- 1 **Speaker, the Baltimore City Housing Commissioner, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative**
- 2 **Liaison to the City Council.**



**INTRODUCTORY\***  
**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**COUNCIL BILL \_\_\_\_\_ R**  
**(Resolution)**



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Introduced by: Councilmember Clarke

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

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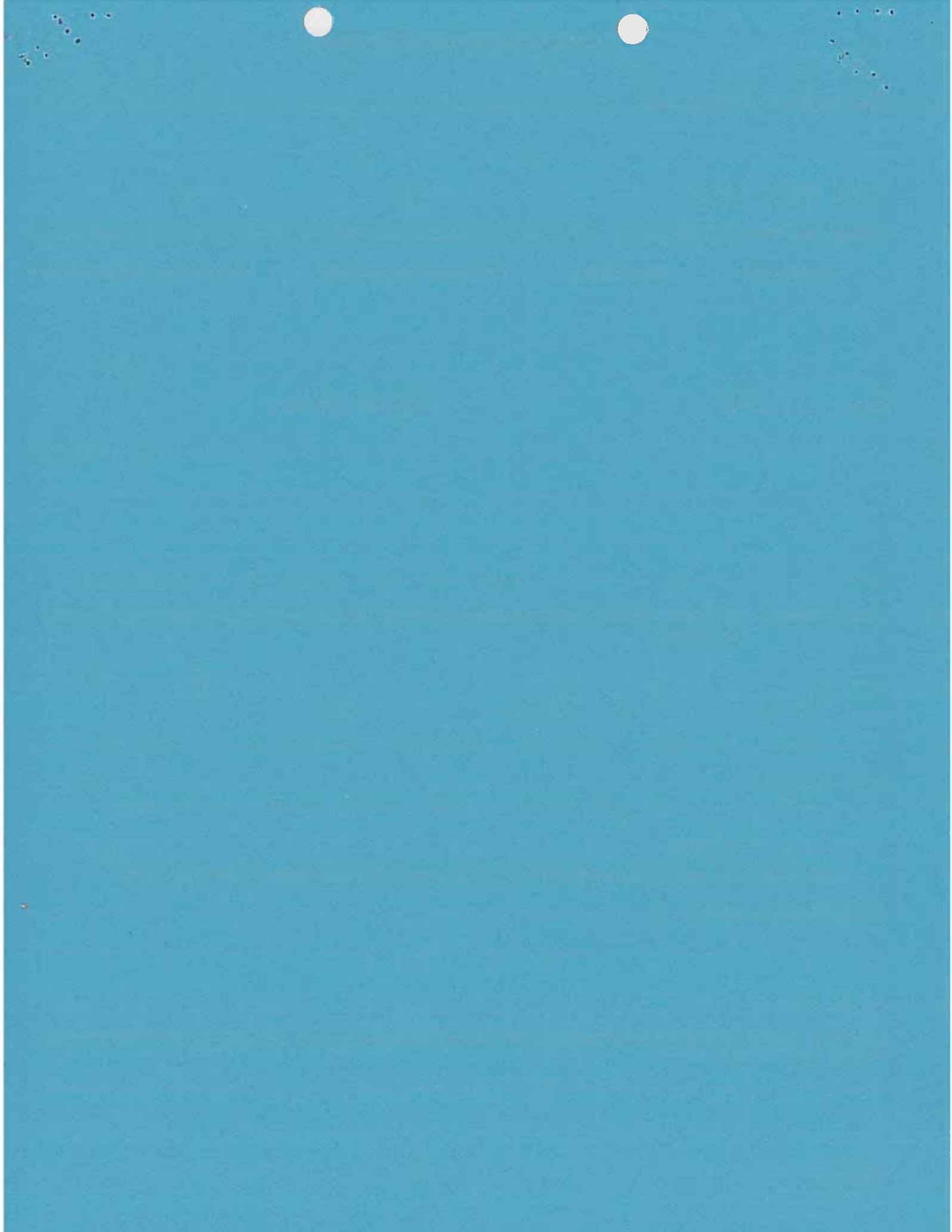
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\* WARNING: THIS IS AN UNOFFICIAL, INTRODUCTORY COPY OF THE BILL.  
THE OFFICIAL COPY CONSIDERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IS THE FIRST READER COPY.

**Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House Speaker, the Baltimore City Housing Commissioner, the Mayor, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City Council.**



**ACTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL**

FEB 25 2019  
20

FIRST READING (INTRODUCTION) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEE REPORT AS OF \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ UNFAVORABLE \_\_\_\_\_ FAVORABLE AS AMENDED \_\_\_\_\_ WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SECOND READING: The Council's action being favorable (unfavorable), this City Council bill was (was not) ordered printed for Third Reading on:

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Amendments were read and adopted (defeated) as indicated on the copy attached to this blue backing.

THIRD READING (RE-ENROLLED) \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

WITHDRAWAL \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

There being no objections to the request for withdrawal, it was so ordered that this City Council Ordinance be withdrawn from the files of the City Council.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk