

# Vote NO on SB 167

## What it does:

- SB 167 directly **contradicts** *Maryland Rule 2-703 “Attorneys’ Fees Allowed by Law,”* which requires the court to weigh several factors prior to deciding whether an award of attorney’s fees should be made and if so, in what amount.
- SB 167 makes it **harder for families to avoid a tax lien foreclosure** by increasing the amount of money that low-income homeowners must pay to tax attorneys, regardless of the amount of work the attorneys did.
- SB 167 potentially **increases the cost of avoiding a tax lien foreclosure by 10%.**
- SB 167 **reduces transparency**-an individual should be able to see the work that an attorney did in order to claim attorney’s fees of \$500 or less.
- SB 167 **is premature** – a tax-sale workgroup is being formed to review all aspects of Maryland’s tax sale system-any issues related to tax sale attorneys’ fees should be taken up by the workgroup. To do pass SB 167 now when the work group will address this issue as well as many others in the next few months is short-sighted.

## Who it harms:

Of the clients seeking pro bono assistance to avoid tax lien foreclosure in 2016:

- 80% were African American
- 53% were seniors
- 47% have household incomes less than \$20,000
- 30% were disabled
- 22% have household incomes below \$10,000
- 8% were veterans



The **HOLLAND LAW FIRM**  
for Consumer Rights

