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BILL NO.: **SB 184**

TITLE: University of Maryland, Baltimore - Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 30, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 184 – University of Maryland, Baltimore - Study on the Health Effects of Air Traffic Noise. This bill would require the University of Maryland, Baltimore to study the health effects of air traffic noise on communities near BWI as a result of the implementation of the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen).

In 2014, Baltimore County residents were informed of the FAA’s NextGen air traffic control system. Since then, the FAA has received numerous complaints about the resulting changes in flight patterns, most notably that low-flying planes near Baltimore County communities cause tremors and significantly higher noise pollution than the old system. As of today, several measures have been taken to attempt to address this issue; yet despite an administrative petition and a lawsuit filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals, little has been done to mitigate the problem.

This bill would commission a study on the effects of noise pollution on residents near BWI since the implementation of NextGen, and may help in giving the FAA definitive evidence of how this new policy harms our residents’ quality of life.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 184. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.