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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 233**

**TITLE:**                **Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition**

**SPONSOR:**           **The President (By Request - Office of the Attorney General)**

**COMMITTEE:**        **Finance**

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                **February 13, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 233 – Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products - Prohibition. Under this proposed legislation, licensees would be banned from selling, buying, storing, shipping, or importing flavored tobacco products.

Tobacco companies have historically made a tremendous effort to market their products to new markets, and research has demonstrated that flavored tobacco products are one of the most effective ways to make nicotine appealing to young people. Flavors make tobacco seem safer and more approachable than it would otherwise be. In December 2019, the CDC found that 72.8% of high school-aged tobacco users and 59.6% of middle school-aged tobacco users reported flavored tobacco product use. Additionally, many of the young people surveyed reported high levels of exposure to tobacco product marketing.

County Executive Olszewski is deeply committed to protecting young people from the health risks posed by tobacco addiction. This legislation offers a positive solution to a growing problem affecting thousands of Marylanders and curtails the marketing of a dangerous substance to a vulnerable population.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 233. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.