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BILL NO.: **HB 1351**

TITLE: Public Financing Act – State Senate and House of Delegates
Candidates and Matching Fund Revisions

SPONSOR: Delegate Mosby

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 27, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1351 – Public Financing Act – State Senate and House of Delegates Candidates and Matching Fund Revisions. This legislation would include candidates for State Senator and House of Delegates among those eligible to participate in the public campaign financing program set forth by the Public Financing Act.

Government accountability and transparency is a top priority for County Executive Olszewski’s administration. Last year, Baltimore County passed legislation to create a ballot initiative to allow public financing for elected County offices. Constituents deserve a government that makes decisions in the interest of the County and its residents, and citizens should be given a voice regardless the size of their wallet. Public financing compels candidates to account for how their money is being spent, and removes personal wealth from the equation in decisions of whether to run for office.

This bill furthers Baltimore County’s policy priority of making government work for, and answer to, the people. By expanding eligibility to the State Senate and the House of Delegates, the State would continue its pattern of giving constituents a stake in State elections that encourages fiscal responsibility and promotes accessibility to public office.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1351. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.