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BILL NO.: **SB 295**

TITLE: Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Emergency Service Transporters - Reimbursement

SPONSOR: Senator Gallion

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 8, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 295—Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Emergency Service Transporters – Reimbursement. This legislation would expand eligible emergency services and increase the reimbursement rates for emergency transport services from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

Access to emergency medical transportation can be the difference between life and death in a crisis. The COVID pandemic highlighted the significant fiscal burden emergency services place on local jurisdictions. At the current rate of reimbursement by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program, locally funded or volunteer emergency service providers who pick up a resident with Medicaid are only reimbursed for the fraction of the cost of care. This exacerbates the already growing strain on the local resources and systems, particularly those serving residents with some of the highest need.

This legislation will help support emergency transportation services by scaling up the rate of reimbursement from a cap of \$100 dollars to \$300 dollars over the next 8 years. It will also expand the type of transportation services that are eligible to be reimbursed by the Maryland Medical Assistance Program. This change is critical for the long term sustainability of local and volunteer emergency service providers.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 295. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.