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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 275

TITLE: Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Hayes

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 10, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 275 – Labor and Employment – Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program – Establishment. This legislation would provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave for covered individuals due to specified personal and family circumstances.

Family and medical leave is crucial to the health and well-being of all Maryland residents. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many employees to choose between earning a paycheck to support their families or taking the time to stay home and care for them. For many, the decision has significant consequences on the financial and physical health of their families. As an employer of more than 20,000 individuals, Baltimore County supports the implementation of a paid family leave program in the State of Maryland.

Senate Bill 275 protects Maryland’s workers by providing them with up to 12 weeks of family and medical leave paid for by the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund through contributions of all employees in the state. This would allow for employees to care for themselves or their loved ones without fear of losing income or employment.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 275. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.