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BILL NO.: **House Bill 375**

TITLE: **Open Meetings Act- Application and Enhanced Requirements
(Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022)**

SPONSOR: Delegate Korman

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 375 – Open Meetings Act – Application and Enhanced Requirements (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022). This legislation would establish enhanced requirements for information available under the Open Meetings Act and expand public bodies subject to the law’s requirements.

The Open Meetings Act ensures that the all residents have access to deliberations made by publically funded bodies. Enhanced transparency allows residents to hold their government accountable by providing essential access to the decision-making process. Baltimore County has championed transparency by enhancing virtual access to County workgroups, expanding community input into the budget process, and working with community leaders to keep the public informed of the work being done on their behalf.

House Bill 375 expands the Open Meetings Act to public bodies previously excluded. This will assist in providing greater transparency across the State of Maryland, fostering the trust in our public institutions that is necessary for good government to function.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 375. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.