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BILL NO.: SB 551

TITLE: Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023)

SPONSOR: The President (By Request – Administration)

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: SUPPORT

DATE: March 29, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 551 – Department of Service and Civic Innovation and Maryland Corps Program Service Year Option Pathways - Established (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023). This legislation would reestablish the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to include oversight of the Office on Service and Volunteerism and the Maryland Corps.

The COVID pandemic highlighted the need for critical investments to be made to cultivate a strong and efficient public service field. States and local jurisdictions across the country are suffering from a dwindling pool of applicants who are trained for critical high-impact service placements. Enhanced workforce development tools that provide targeted, specialized training as alternatives to postsecondary education are vital for strengthening the pipeline of talent into State and Local government positions.

SB 551 provides the State and local governments a strong tool to develop a trained, professional workforce. This bill would require the Department of Service and Civic Innovation to oversee the Maryland Corps Program, the Young Adult Service Year Option Pathway, and the Maryland Service Year Option Pathway and Fund.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 551. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.