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BILL NO.: **SB 333**

TITLE: Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing – Identifying Suitable Property

SPONSOR: Senator Hettleman

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 8, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 333 – Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing – Identifying Suitable Property. This legislation makes technical changes to the 2022 law Housing and Community Development – Affordable Housing – Excess Real Property intended to help the State administer the legislation as intended. The initial intention of the 2022 legislation was to enable nonprofit affordable housing developers to build new housing at below market prices.

The 2022 law required the Department of Housing and Community Development to determine if excess State properties were suitable for use or redevelopment as affordable housing. For identified properties, the State must develop a proposal to donate or sell the property to a nonprofit that intends to use the property for affordable housing or alternatively to sell the property to another organization that intends to use the property for affordable housing. As the law is currently written, the state agency was unable to identify a significant number of properties for this intended purpose. The technical changes under the current legislation are meant to adjust the criteria and process so that more properties can be identified, ultimately accomplishing the goal of the original legislation. These changes will allow for the continued expansion of attainable housing in Baltimore County.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 333. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.