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BILL NO.: SB 771

TITLE: Education – Initial Teacher Certification – Requirements

SPONSOR: Senator Washington

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 23, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 771 – Education – Initial Teacher Certification – Requirements. This legislation intends to create additional pathways to teaching and will create a streamlined process for out-of-state teachers to become certified in Maryland.

SB 771 seeks to address the educator shortage sweeping Maryland and the country. Maryland Teacher Preparation Programs have seen a 33% decline in enrollment since 2012. To address this educator shortage, Maryland must expand the avenues for teacher recruitment and certification to capture the most qualified and most diverse cohort of teachers possible. This includes addressing longtime systems that exclude too many qualified people from the profession. SB 771 would complement the efforts made by the Maryland Educator Shortage Act of 2023 to expand Maryland’s teaching workforce to combat this crisis. It is to the benefit of our children to ensure that every student learns from a highly qualified teacher and from teachers who reflect the diversity of our student body.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 771 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.