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BILL NO.: **HB 420**

TITLE: State and Local Parks – Play Area Accessibility –
 Communication Boards

SPONSOR: Delegate Lehman

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

DATE: February 14, 2024

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 420 – State and Local Parks – Play Area Accessibility – Communication Boards. This legislation would not only add a requirement of “communication boards,” but mandates that local jurisdictions apply for Program Open Space funds for these boards.

Baltimore County’s Department of Recreation and Parks, alongside other parks and recreation agencies throughout the state, consistently oppose any directed use of Program Open Space funding. This legislation does not supplement or increase Program Open Space funding, so it functions as an unfunded mandate. The intention of being inclusive with all residents that want to enjoy these amenities is positive, however, the path that the legislation takes to accomplish these goals would represent a hardship for our department.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 420 from the House Environment and Transportation committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.