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BILL NO.: **SB 899**

TITLE: Constitutional Officer – Public Disclosure of Personal Information

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstreicher

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

DATE: March 7, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS** Senate Bill 899 – Constitutional Officers – Public Disclosure of Personal Information, a timely effort to protect the private information of certain political figures.

SB 899 prohibits posting on the internet or otherwise making publicly available the home address or personal telephone number of a current or former governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, comptroller, or state treasurer. Furthermore, SB 899 would authorize a civil cause of action for damages arising from disclosure of such private information. With swatting, when pranksters make illegal and dangerous fake emergency calls in hopes of sending armed police to raid a person’s home, on the rise, Baltimore County is concerned that this dangerous practice will be increasingly used as a weapon of political retaliation and intimidation in a contentious political climate.

Baltimore County would support an amendment to the bill covering local officials such as County Executives, County Administrative Officers, and members of County Councils across the State of Maryland.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 899 from the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.