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BILL NO.: SB 3

TITLE: Electronic Smoking Devices, Other Tobacco Products, and Cigarettes - Taxation and Regulation

SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 29, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 3 – Electronic Smoking Devices, Other Tobacco Products, and Cigarettes - Taxation and Regulation. The bill aims to reduce smoking and the use of electronic smoking devices by increasing the tax rate of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices, and provides additional funds for activities aimed at reducing tobacco use.

In Baltimore County, we place high value on the health and wellbeing of our youngest residents. The recent spate of vaping-related illnesses is deeply disturbing, and a reflection of the negative impact e-cigarettes have had on young people. In 2015, the U.S. Surgeon General reported that e-cigarette use among high school students had increased by 900%. This enabling legislation proposes appropriations for programs to reduce tobacco use, while also regulating e-cigarettes the same way traditional cigarettes are regulated.

Baltimore County is concerned about nicotine addiction in our communities. If there is resulting grant funding for support and development of activities centered on reduction of tobacco use, the Baltimore County Health Department plans to utilize it to limit the impact of tobacco use.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 3. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.