



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.  
*Chief Legislative Officer*

KIMBERLY S. ROUTSON  
*Deputy Legislative Officer*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Assistant Legislative Officer*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 207**

**TITLE:**                Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services

**SPONSOR:**            Senator Washington

**COMMITTEE:**        Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 207 – Unaccompanied Minors in Need of Shelter and Supportive Services. This bill authorizes an unaccompanied minor in need of shelter to consent to shelter and supportive services.

Homelessness is a complex and difficult issue that requires comprehensive policy solutions. Baltimore County supports efforts to address the needs of our homeless population, particularly the especially vulnerable population of homeless youth.

The bill enables that support by providing emergency shelter to individuals experiencing homelessness in Baltimore County and expanding the ability to shelter homeless youth. While current policy states that a person seeking shelter must be 18 years of age or older, passage of this bill would allow unaccompanied homeless youth to be housed. These youth can benefit from access to a safe shelter with supportive services, preventing the potential victimization and trauma that could result from being turned away.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 207. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.