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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 258**

**TITLE:**                Public Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions –  
                                  Operation Requirements

**SPONSOR:**            Senator Bailey

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

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 4, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 258 – Public Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions –Operation Requirements. This bill would prohibit the unsafe operation of electric retractable room partitions in schools, require training in partition usage for school employees, and mandate that the State Department of Education develop and distribute model safety guidelines.

Room partitions are commonly used in schools and offer the opportunity to easily change the layout of rooms. They are in many schools, including Baltimore County’s own Patapsco Middle School. However, they can also be dangerous, particularly when young children are nearby. In 2018, Wesley Lipicky, a third-grader in Virginia, was fatally injured by a motorized wall partition. This legislation presents an opportunity to prevent similar tragedies from occurring and guarantee our children’s safety.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 258. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.