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BILL NO.: **SB 420**

TITLE: Public Safety - Fire Fighting Foam and PFAS Chemicals

SPONSOR: Senator Elfreth

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 11, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 420 – Public Safety - Fire Fighting Foam and PFAS Chemicals. This bill prohibits the use of fire-fighting foam containing perfluoralkyl and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) for training purposes.

According to the CDC, exposure to PFAS may interfere with the body's natural hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system, and increase the risk of some cancers. As it currently stands, a majority of Americans have PFAS in their bloodstream. Firefighting foams are known to contain PFAS. When used, the foams introduce PFAS into underground or nearby water systems, contaminating our environment and poisoning our residents. By banning the use of these foams for training purposes, we can limit its introduction into the water system.

This is one of Baltimore County's top legislative priorities this session for a simple reason: PFAS are in our waters right now. They have been detected in enormous quantities in the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Beach. We now ask the state to prioritize this essential legislation as well. We cannot afford to let PFAS levels rise more than they already have.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 420. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.