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BILL NO.: **SB 564**

TITLE: Education – High School Graduation Requirements – Students
in Foster Care or Homeless Youth

SPONSOR: Senator Washington

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 18, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 564 – Education – High School Graduation Requirements – Students in Foster Care or Homeless Youth. This bill waives certain county board of education high school graduation requirements for children who are in foster care or experiencing homelessness if while in grade 11 or 12 the youth transfers into the local school system from a different system in the State or transfers between high schools in the local school system.

Children who are forced to move homes, and thus school districts, due to being in foster care or experiencing homelessness face a unique set of challenges not experienced by other students. County boards of education have a wide range of coursework requirements that can be cumbersome for those individuals who frequently change residences. Shifting requirements and circumstances serve as barriers to success for students who already face innumerable challenges. This bill would help to level the playing field for disadvantaged students.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 564. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.