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BILL NO.: **HB 823**

TITLE: State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 823 – State Fire Marshal – Sprinkler Systems Enforcement. This bill requires the State Fire Marshal to enforce any requirements relating to the installation of automatic sprinkler systems in new one- and two-family dwellings.

According to the Department of Legislative Services, HB 823 codifies an existing practice, but it also serves as a reminder of the importance of fire safety and the role played by the State Fire Marshal and local Fire Marshals. Properly installed and inspected sprinkler systems are critical to protecting property and saving the lives of residents and public safety personnel. Because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames and smoke produced in a fire. Codifying the Fire Marshal’s ability to enforce related regulations will ensure that new family dwellings will continue to be built with safety and security in mind.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 823. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.