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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 877**

**TITLE:**                **Underground Facilities Damage Prevention – Revision**

**SPONSOR:**           **Senator Feldman**

**COMMITTEE:**        **Finance**

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

**DATE:**                **February 25, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** Senate Bill 877 – Underground Facilities Damage Prevention – Revision. This bill makes various changes to the Maryland Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Authority, its composition and powers, and specifies related procedures for the ongoing protection of underground facilities.

SB 877 contains a number of provisions to help better protect the vital facilities that Maryland residents rely on, including natural gas, cable, television, water, and sewer lines. Baltimore County believes the bill could be strengthened through the following amendments of relating to emergency tickets:

On page 15, in line 32, after “center;” insert “and, except for circumstances beyond an owner-member or contract locator’s control begin the locating process to mark their respective utility within 5 hours of the transmission of the ticket as noted in 12-121 (a) or clear the ticket if the facility owner has no facilities within the delineated excavation area.”

On page 16, strike lines 5 through 7 in their entirety.

These adjustments are also supported by the Maryland Association of Counties and the Maryland Municipal League.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report on SB 877. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.