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**BILL NO.:** SB 966

**TITLE:** Health Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Referrals and Licenses

**SPONSOR:** Senator Hettleman

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

**DATE:** March 5, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 966 – Health Facilities – Assisted Living Programs – Referrals and Licenses. This legislation would authorize the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief in the event that a person was illegally operating an assisted living facility. It also prohibits a person from knowingly referring an individual to an illegally operated assisted living facility.

There are more than 300 assisted living facilities in Maryland. These facilities seek to provide individuals with a home and support services. When they operate as they are meant to, they can connect lonely people with communities and enable them to retain their dignity and independence. However, improperly operated living facilities can leave residents – often the elderly or the disabled – susceptible to abuse and neglect.

County Executive Olszewski is deeply committed to protecting Baltimore County’s most vulnerable residents. SB 966 seeks to strengthen the accountability standards that assisted living facilities are held to by giving the Attorney General and the Department of Aging Ombudsman more power to investigate and shut down illegal or improperly operated living facilities.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 966. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, 443-900-6582.