



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 810 - State Highway Administration - Electronic Signs Along Highways - Suicide Prevention

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstreicher

HEARING DATE: March 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 810 - State Highway Administration - Electronic Signs Along Highways - Suicide Prevention**, which authorizes the State Highway Administration (SHA) to post information on suicide prevention, including a hotline number, on electronic signs along any highway within a five-mile radius of a high suicide risk zone, as identified by SHA.

This bill will have a positive impact on Prince George's County by increasing the awareness of resources and assistance available to those who may be struggling with depression and contemplating suicide. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2018 there were 650 deaths by suicide in Maryland.¹ Breaking down the number of suicide deaths by jurisdiction, Prince George's County had the fourth largest number in 2018 at 58, behind Montgomery County with 99, Baltimore County with 90; and Anne Arundel County with 79.²

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 810** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.

¹ "Suicide Mortality by State," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Feb. 20, 2020, Accessed on March 4, 2020, at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>

² *Maryland Vital Statistics Annual Report 2018*, Maryland Department of Health, p. 200, Accessed on March 4, 2020, at <https://health.maryland.gov/talbotcounty/Documents/2018%20Maryland%20Vital%20Statistics%20Annual%20Report.pdf>