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BILL NO.: SB 227

TITLE: Family Law - Final Protective Order - Extension

SPONSOR: Senator Waldstricher

COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 4, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 227 – Family Law - Final Protective Order – Extension. This bill ensures that if a petitioner files a motion to extend the term of a final protective order, and a hearing on the motion is not held before the order’s original expiration date, the order is automatically extended until the hearing on the motion.

Protective orders at times can mean the difference between life and death for the petitioner. These orders ensure that victims of domestic abuse stay safe from their abusers. Currently, if a petitioner files to extend their protective order and the hearing is set after the expiration of the original order, a troubling window is created in which the petitioner is no longer protected. This legislation would close that window by automatically extending the original order to the date of the extension hearing.

For Baltimore County, the needs of victims and survivors who want to once again feel safe in their communities is a top priority. By closing a hole in the legal system with the potential for exploitation, this bill will help many navigate their daily lives knowing that they are protected.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 227. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.