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**BILL NO.:**            **HB 248**

**TITLE:**                **Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses**

**SPONSOR:**           **Delegate Atterbeary**

**COMMITTEE:**        **Judiciary**

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                **January 30, 2020**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 248 – Protective Orders - Relief Eligibility - Rape and Sexual Offenses. This bill would change the current relief eligibility standards to allow for a person alleging rape and certain sexual offenses against another to apply for a protective order as opposed to a peace order.

Protective orders currently cover certain forms of domestic abuse, yet there are many more who would benefit from their protection. Protective orders, among other things, order the respondent to cease contact with the victim, surrender all firearms, and stay away from the home, school, and workplace of the victim. These are obvious measures to take to ensure that survivors feel as safe and comfortable as possible during trial proceedings. This legislation would strengthen Baltimore County’s ability to protect those residents whose lives and safety hang in the balance.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 248. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.