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BILL NO.: **HB 320**

TITLE: Criminal Law - Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult -
 Causing Severe Emotional Distress

SPONSOR: Delegate Shetty

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 4, 2020

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 320 – Criminal Law - Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual - Undue Influence. This bill alters the definition of “undue influence” for the purposes of prohibiting the exploitation of a senior of at least 68 years old or a vulnerable adult in an effort to transfer property.

In Baltimore County we celebrate our elderly residents and strive to help those of our adult population who are most in need. Manipulation of vulnerable adults, whether it be the elderly or those with intellectual disabilities, is a heinous act and one that should not be construed to be tolerated by the law in the slightest. This bill would require the court to consider a specified set of factors when determining whether an elderly or vulnerable adult has been exploited in the course of the transfer of property.

Passing this legislation would assist the courts in bringing justice for vulnerable adults who have been manipulated into selling their property by another party.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 320. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.