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BILL NO.: **HB 1065**

TITLE: Bond Authority – Maryland State Ceiling and Housing Bond Allocations

SPONSOR: Delegate Holmes

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 24, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1065 – Bond Authority – Maryland State Ceiling and Housing Bond Allocations. This legislation allows for a regional approach to the transfer of housing bond allocations between jurisdictions and facilitates the process by establishing a database maintained by the Department of Commerce.

The need for affordable housing is not confined within jurisdictional borders. Individuals experiencing housing insecurity have traveled across county and municipal lines to find a suitable place to live. The havoc on jobs and personal finances sparked by the pandemic have not only highlighted the growing need not only for more affordable housing, but also for a collaborative approach to mitigate the upcoming housing and eviction crisis. Housing bond allocations are an essential funding mechanism for the development of affordable housing, however the method for these allocations to be shared inter-jurisdictionally are not conducive to a fast implementation.

HB 1065 allows for a regional approach to the production and development of affordable housing by facilitating the transfer of housing bond allocations between jurisdictions. Counties understand that we are in this together, and effective approaches to stemming the housing crisis must be regional and collaborative.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1065. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.