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BILL NO.: **SB 710**

TITLE: State and Local Government and Private Employers –
 Teleworking

SPONSOR: Senator King

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 25, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 710 – State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking. This legislation would require counties and municipalities to establish a program allowing employees to telework.

COVID-19 has upended life as we knew it, forcing businesses and residents to shut their doors indefinitely. Many have lost their jobs, their homes, and any control over their lives. Teleworking has offered a safe and effective solution for ensuring the continuity of government during a global pandemic. It has allowed local employees to perform their duties without putting the health of themselves and their families at risk.

By mandating that governing bodies have some sort of telework policy in place, this legislation ensures that governments across the state are prepared for any health emergency like COVID-19. Additionally, teleworking policies can promote equitable employment opportunities. Teleworking policies expand the hiring pool to individuals who are not able to afford a car to commute to work or for whom the commute would be burdensome. A statewide telework policy would not only be vital for emergencies, but could also establish a more efficient government as the state recovers from this pandemic.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 710. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.