



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.
County Executive

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Director of Government Affairs

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BILL NO.: **SB 244**

TITLE: Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act -
Nonbudgeted State Agencies

SPONSOR: Senator Lam

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 3, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 244 – Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act - Nonbudgeted State Agencies. This legislation would require the Department of Information to create a searchable website of payments made by any unit of State Government that receives funds that are not appropriated in the annual budget bill.

Transparent government spending is vital to legitimizing and establishing faith in our democratic system. In the past year it has become clear that keeping certain financial documents under lock and key can leave agencies that operate with public funding vulnerable to irresponsible spending. It is essential that residents of the State have faith that their money is being used in the most efficient and effective way possible.

County Executive Olszewski has made government transparency a key priority in his administration. In his first year in office, he established the County’s first Office of Ethics and Accountability led by an Inspector General to oversee the operations of Baltimore County Government. The County Executive understands that fraud, waste, and abuse have no place in government. This bill would help uphold that mission.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 244. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.