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BILL NO.: **SB 637**

TITLE: Community Development Administration – Live Near Your School Program – Establishment

SPONSOR: Senator Hayes

COMMITTEE: Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

DATE: February 23, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 637 – Community Development Administration – Live Near Your School Program – Establishment. This legislation would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer a home buyer assistance program for students and recent graduates of public higher education institutions.

Maryland has some of the most prestigious public higher education institutions producing highly trained and hardworking young adults. While these young people receive their education in the state, many leave and take their talents to other cities around the country. Educated young adults are some of the state’s most precious resources and Maryland must work to incentivize their students to work and live locally.

This legislation would keep talent in Maryland by qualifying students and graduates of public high education institutions to receive low interest mortgages if they purchase a home near their college or university. HB 943 would also require the State to administer community development projects through the Live Near Your School program in these neighborhoods. These programs will help revitalize university neighborhoods, keep talented youth in the state and help young Marylanders grow their wealth through home ownership.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 637. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.