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BILL NO.: **SB 908**

TITLE: Budget Bill – Appropriations Statement – Memorandum of Understanding for State Personnel

SPONSOR: Senator Benson

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 17, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 908 – Budget Bill – Appropriations Statement – Memorandum of Understanding for State Personnel. This legislation proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring the Governor to include with the budget bill a statement showing the appropriations necessary to fund Memoranda of Understanding and establishes binding arbitration in collective bargaining disputes.

Currently, unresolved collective bargaining disputes between the State and the exclusive representative can only be addressed by factfinders who make nonbinding recommendations. There is no process for mediation nor is there any authority beyond that of management to implement the recommendations of these fact finders. In these circumstances, unionized employees do not have the standing necessary in negotiations to have their side considered or recommendations implemented. If the employer serves as both mediator and arbitrator, there is no guarantee that an employee has truly fair representation.

SB 908 remedies this by establishing binding arbitration in cases of collective bargaining disputes. By empowering independent fact finders, mediators, or arbitrators to enforce decisions made based on the facts of the dispute, this legislation would ensure a fair process for employees and strengthen workers’ rights across the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 908. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.