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BILL NO.: **House Bill 1019**

TITLE: **Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation
Service – County Funding**

SPONSOR: **Delegate K. Young**

COMMITTEE: **Appropriations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 8, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 1019 – Transportation – Elderly and Handicapped Transportation Service – County Funding. This legislation would provide local jurisdictions with funding to implement transportation services for the elderly and the handicapped communities.

Residents rely on public transit to access services critical for their health and wellbeing. These transportation services are particularly vital for those in the disabled and senior communities who may lack the ability to transport themselves due to impairment. Baltimore County currently offers the CountyRide program, which provides registered residents who are 60 years and older, persons with disabilities, and rural residents transportation to medical appointments, shopping trips, and general necessary outings. Additional State assistance would expand the program and further Baltimore County's efforts to reach any and all residents in need of service.

House Bill 1019 strengthens local jurisdictions' ability to provide elderly and handicapped residents the transportation services they need. This will assist all local jurisdictions as they work to expand the range of transportation options for some of Maryland's most vulnerable residents, HB 1019 is critical to the establishment and enhancement of equity in transportation.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 1019. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.