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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 557

TITLE: Baltimore County - West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority

SPONSOR: Senator Sydnor

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: Letter of Information

DATE: March 15, 2022

Senate Bill 557 – Baltimore County - West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority would establish, outline the members of, and prescribe the powers and duties of a West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority.

Baltimore County applauds the sponsors for shining a light on the need to invest in community and economic development on the west side of the County. Baltimore County shares the sponsors’ desire to do even more in lifting up these neighborhoods. For these reasons, this administration is prioritizing several capital investments on the west side of Baltimore County and is using American Rescue Plan funding to create a new community development organization, which will work along the Liberty Road corridor. Baltimore County believes this community development organization is the most appropriate tool for bringing together the county’s western anchor institutions, local businesses, civic organizations and government to tackle longstanding problems along the corridor.

Baltimore County further believes this community development organization can partner with existing organizations to leverage existing powers – like the Baltimore County Revenue Authority – to stimulate new investment. Baltimore County has significant reservations about some of the powers SB557 proposes and believes there needs to be a more substantive discussion about whether such tools should be provided and, if so, where they should reside.

For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.