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BILL NO.: **SB 99**

TITLE: Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices
 – Local Law Authorization

SPONSOR: Senator Kramer

COMMITTEE: Finance

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 27, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 99 – Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices – Local Law Authorization. This bill provides local governments with the autonomy to regulate the sale and distribution of cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices.

The current marketing and use of tobacco disproportionately targets BIPOC communities, young individuals and vulnerable users. The tailored messaging has led to an increase in young people, including those under the age of 21, using these products. Blanket regulations in Maryland and nationwide on the sale and distribution of these products has proven to be ineffective at protecting communities from predatory marketing.

Senate Bill 99 allows local governments to enact their own tobacco regulations, thereby targeting issues unique to their communities. Local governments often have a clear perspective on whether certain public health initiatives will be effective, and therefore are better equipped to impose their own tobacco regulations for the safety of residents. Baltimore County has always put protecting the health and wellbeing of vulnerable citizens as a top priority; this legislation gives Baltimore County the authority to continue to meet this need.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 99. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.