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BILL NO.: **House Bill 476**

TITLE: Baltimore County – Board of Education – Member Appointments and Terms and Election of Officers

SPONSOR: Delegate Ebersole

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 10, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 476 – Baltimore County – Board of Education – Member Appointments and Terms and Election of Officers. This legislation would alter the process of appointing certain members of the Baltimore County Board of Education and make the necessary administrative changes to allow the incoming governor to pick the appointees serving coinciding terms.

Baltimore County legislators have worked over the last couple years to create provisions that would expand the representation and diversity of the County school board. As this legislation has taken effect, there have been some unintended administrative issues. It is written in current statute that the school board members appointed by the current Governor will term out after the election of the next Governor, but before the new term Governor-Elect. This would mean the incoming Governor would not have the opportunity to choose the Baltimore School board members serving in almost concurrent terms. The spirit of this legislation, however, was for the Governor most recently elected by the people of Maryland to be given the opportunity to choose the appointees they will be serving with. Allowing the Governor-Elect to appoint members of the school board more closely aligns with the will of the voters.

House Bill 476 amends statute to allow for a new governor to select the new Baltimore County Board of Education appointees by changing the timeline in which these appointments occur. House Bill 476 will allow for Maryland to better represent the will of the people.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 476. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.