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BILL NO.: **HB 222**

TITLE: Baltimore County and Frederick County - Career Activities in Public High Schools - Sale of Coffee by Students With Individualized Education Programs

SPONSOR: Frederick County Delegation

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 8, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 222 – Baltimore County and Frederick County - Career Activities in Public High Schools - Sale of Coffee by Students With Individualized Education Programs. This legislation would prohibit MSDE from banning or regulating the sale of coffee if the sale was developed in conjunction with an educational program.

Prior to taking County office, County Executive John Olszewski introduced identical legislation to this as a Delegate from District 6. That year, the Patapsco High School Java Shop, an award winning coffee store operated by students with special needs, was ordered to close for violating MSDE regulations. Currently, MSDE does not allow the sale of caffeine in high schools during school hours for any program beginning after June 30, 2018. The effect of this policy has been that students who are allowed to consume and possess caffeinated products on school property are not allowed to sell them, regardless of whether the sale has educational value.

House Bill 222 would allow students in Frederick County and Baltimore County to sell caffeine in conjunction with a career exploration and development activity or organized by students with individualized education programs. This legislation would provide schools in Baltimore County and Frederick County a critical educational tool to teach students, including those with special needs, vital career development skills.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 222. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.