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BILL NO.: **HB 348**

TITLE: Baltimore County - School Board Nominating Commission -
Vacancy Procedures

SPONSOR: Delegate Forbes

COMMITTEE: Ways and Means

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 15, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 348 – Baltimore County - School Board Nominating Commission - Vacancy Procedures. This legislation would streamline the process for filling single vacancies on the Baltimore County Board of Education, and require live video streaming for School Board Nomination Commission hearings.

Baltimore County strongly supports strengthening public awareness and access to meetings which are in the public interest. Transparency gives residents critical tools to stay informed and hold their elected officials accountable. For parents across the County, knowing who will be representing their interests on the Baltimore County Board of Education is vital. The current method, however, uses an outdated model which tends to slow down the process and reduces potential accessibility.

By reducing the number of required public hearings for single vacancies on the School Board, and requiring electronic access to public hearings, House Bill 348 streamlines the process for filling vacancies while making access to hearings widely available. With this legislation’s passage, residents across the County can attend School Board Nominating Commission and still enjoy an expedient nomination process.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 348. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.