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BILL NO.: **HB 8**

TITLE: Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports

SPONSOR: Delegate Amprey

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 24, 2023

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 8 – Counties and State Legislative Districts – Food Environment Reports. This legislation would require the State to produce a report for each county and each State legislative district on the food environment for each county or district.

Despite pandemic recovery efforts, food insecurity has continued to increase due to record inflation and a lack of increasing wages. The prevalence of food deserts across the State of Maryland has only served to compound with affordability challenges. As a result, disadvantaged residents have little opportunity to purchase nutritious foods, particularly without a means to travel to an area with a fresh food supermarket.

House Bill 8 would give County and district leaders a clear map of locations that are in dire need of targeted food desert reduction. Baltimore County has already begun efforts to reduce food insecurity by creating a pilot grocery shuttle in a low-income community within the County, and applauds the State’s partnership in this critical project.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 8. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.