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**BILL NO.:**            **HB 669**

**TITLE:**                Workers' Compensation – Benefits – Hearing Loss

**SPONSOR:**           Delegate Pruski

**COMMITTEE:**        Economic Matters

**POSITION:**          **OPPOSE**

**DATE:**                February 21, 2024

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** House Bill 669 – Workers' Compensation – Benefits – Hearing Loss. This legislation would alter the method used to determine the percentage hearing loss for purposes of workers' compensation.

HB 669 would require tinnitus to be considered part of a covered employee's hearing loss. Baltimore County finds this problematic because most tinnitus is subjective and therefore could be feigned. Tinnitus means high-pitched ringing or buzzing that is usually only audible to the affected individual. Most tinnitus is subjective, however objective tinnitus can arise from an aneurysm and can be heard by a medical examiner. Based on the foregoing, the bill should only refer to "objective tinnitus," rather than simply referring to "tinnitus."

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 669 from the House Economic Matters Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at [jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov).