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BILL NO.: **SB 522**

TITLE: Charter Counties – Enforcement of Local Laws

SPONSOR: Senator Augustine

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 8, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 522 – Charter Counties – Enforcement of Local Laws. This legislation would allow charter counties to increase the maximum imposable civil or criminal fines up to \$5,000 from the current maximum of \$1,000 in enforcing local laws.

This legislation would give Baltimore County additional local control and the opportunity to continue making strides in modernizing local government. It is imperative as Baltimore County enters a challenging budgeting season that every option for continuing to deliver quality services to residents is explored. This legislation would give local laws more weight and disincentive people from violating local laws. Furthermore, the revenue generated from these fines would address the effects of inflation on budgeting, granting the County additional flexibility.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 522 from the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.