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BILL NO.: **SB 188**

TITLE: Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2024

SPONSOR: Senator McCray

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: **Support**

DATE: January 17, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 188 – Arbitration Reform for State Employees Act of 2024. This legislation proposes an amendment to the Maryland Constitution requiring the Governor to include in the budget bill the appropriations necessary to fund and implement all terms within each Memoranda of Understanding reached between the State and exclusive representatives for the employees of the State, State institutions of higher education and the Maryland Environmental Service. The bill also outlines detailed processes for collective bargaining and binding arbitration, including the required use of a neutral arbitrator.

Currently, unresolved collective bargaining disputes between the State and exclusive representatives are addressed by fact finders who make nonbinding recommendations. SB 188 removes from law the role of a fact finder, and replaces this process with binding arbitration. Baltimore County has updated its own County Charter to establish binding arbitration for dispute resolution when consensus can not be reached through collective bargaining. The process outlined in SB 188 for State employee collective bargaining and arbitration clearly establishes timeframes and expectations so that both sides in a dispute can be heard and a binding resolution can be made before the beginning of the next year’s State budget cycle.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 188. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov.