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BILL NO.: SB274

TITLE: Charter Counties - Comprehensive Plans –
Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

SPONSOR: Chairman Feldman, on behalf of the Department of Planning

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy and the Environment

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 25, 2024

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 274 – Charter Counties - Comprehensive Plans – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing. This bill requires the planning commission of each charter county to include in the housing element of their comprehensive plan an assessment of fair housing to ensure that the county is affirmatively furthering fair housing.

Maryland, like many other states, is facing a sizeable deficit in attainable housing. As scarcity persists, costs rise, often beyond the affordability of working families. Baltimore County firmly believes that assessing how master plans will impact the distribution and availability of housing opportunities is an important part of the master planning process. In fact, this information is already collected by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC), of which Baltimore County is an active participant. BMC compiles a Regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing for each member jurisdiction every four years, providing our County with much of the information required under the legislation. An MOU between Baltimore County and the BMC for the 2024 AI was recently signed, and the 2024 AI process will soon kick off.

Accordingly, Baltimore County urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 274 from the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee. For more information, please contact Jenn Aiosa, Director of Government Affairs at jaiosa@baltimorecountymd.gov