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BILL NO.: SB 22

TITLE: Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities

SPONSOR: Senator West

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

DATE: January 22, 2020

Baltimore County **OPPOSES** Senate Bill 22 – Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities. This bill would require local boards of elections to establish separate precincts in retirement communities of 200 or more individuals who are at least 60 years old if the community requests the polling place be established.

Baltimore County supports efforts to expand opportunities for elderly residents to vote, and would welcome a partnership with the State to develop and fund programs to achieve this goal. However, this unfunded mandate runs counter to the County’s fiscal responsibility to its constituents. The leasing of additional equipment and the hiring of additional election judges represent a significant increase in expenditures. All told, the extra costs for Baltimore County would reach nearly \$100,000 to properly prepare for these changes with no aid from the State.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests an **UNFAVORABLE** report on SB 22. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Chief Legislative Officer, at 443-900-6582.