



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

CHARLES R. CONNER III, ESQ.  
*Director of Government Affairs*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Deputy Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 563**

**TITLE:**                Local Health Departments - Funding

**SPONSOR:**          Senator Griffith

**COMMITTEE:**        Budget and Taxation

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**               February 17, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 563 - Local Health Departments - Funding. This bill would increase State funding for local health departments and would provide for personal protective equipment and resources for emergency response.

Local health departments are on the front lines of the pandemic. It is local health departments that coordinate the supply of personal protective equipment, work to prevent community spread of an easily communicable virus, establish guidelines for the treatment of those who have been infected, and now manage the administration of life-saving vaccines to more than 800,000 residents in Baltimore County alone. Health departments are saving the lives of residents, and moving forward, it is essential that the appropriate resources are dedicated to their efforts.

In the event of another potential widespread health emergency, jurisdictions across the country will once again face limited resources. In these instances, State assistance is critical to ensuring that the right resources get into the right hands. SB 563 not only establishes guidelines for local health departments during emergencies, but guarantees investment from the State of Maryland that is commensurate with the essential services they provide.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 563. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).