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BILL NO.: **HB 118**

TITLE: Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual – Penalties

SPONSOR: Delegate Stein

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: January 14, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 118 – Vehicle Laws – Injury or Death of Vulnerable Individual – Penalties. This legislation would establish specific penalties for an individual causing the serious physical injury or death of a vulnerable individual through distracted driving.

More than 3,500 public safety personnel and vulnerable road workers were injured, and 46 killed in work zone crashes across Maryland from 2014-2018. These workers place themselves in precarious positions to improve public infrastructure and keep our roadways safe. Current statutes do not offer the protections we owe our workers in return.

HB 118 seeks to address the problem by creating a new civil penalty in vehicle laws that specifically addresses the consequences of careless or distracted driving. Holding distracted drivers accountable for the damage that is done to pedestrians, highway work crews, and emergency service providers will lead to a safer Maryland. Baltimore County considers safety of our public safety personnel a critical issue of concern, and therefore considers this a high priority piece of legislation.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 118. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at 443-900-6582.