

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Kumar Barve  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

**RE: Support w/ Amendments of HB 977 - Prince George's County – Public Safety and Behavioral Health Surcharges – Behavioral Health Programs**

Dear Chairman Barve,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 1,100 member firms statewide, appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in **SUPPORT w/ Amendments** of HB 977 - Prince George's County – Public Safety and Behavioral Health Surcharges – Behavioral Health Programs. This bill would rename the Public Safety Surcharge in Prince Georges County that is imposed for certain residential construction to be now known as the Public Safety and Behavioral Health, and providing an exemption to the surcharge. We also support the exemption language for preliminary plans residential development that was approved on or before July 1, 2005.

While we do support the measure and the need for more behavioral health programs and facilities in the county, we do express concerns that the reallocation fees dedicated to public safety infrastructure could cause unintended consequences through increasing fees in the future, impacting growth and housing affordability. We thank the delegation for their efforts on this and look forward to working with the county moving forward.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or [lgraf@marylandbuilders.org](mailto:lgraf@marylandbuilders.org).

Sincerely,

Lori Graf, CEO

cc: Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee