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BILL NO.: **HB 636**

TITLE: School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act)

SPONSOR: Delegate Solomon

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

DATE: February 10, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 636 – School Buildings - Drinking Water Outlets - Elevated Level of Lead (Safe School Drinking Water Act). This legislation would redefine what classifies as an “elevated level of lead” in the drinking water from school buildings.

As a former Educator, Baltimore County Executive Olszewski is devoted to ensuring that school is a safe place for all children. School buildings should not cause harm to our students and expose them to life altering chemicals. Parents deserve the assurance that are sending their children to an environment that prioritizes health and will not cause harm to their child.

This legislation would decrease the minimal acceptable level of lead found in drinking water from 15 parts per billion to 5 parts per billion. The deleterious effects of lead have higher impacts on the health of children whose bodies are still developing, and children’s drinking water should be more strictly regulated to reflect their increased vulnerability. By decreasing the acceptable levels of lead in school drinking water, this legislation makes school a safe place for our students.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 636. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov.