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**BILL NO.:**            **SB 293**

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

**SPONSOR:**         Senator Waldstreicher

**COMMITTEE:**      Judicial Proceedings

**POSITION:**        **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**              January 27, 2021

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 293 – 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.

SB 293 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 SB 293. For more information, please contact Chuck Conner, Director of Government Affairs, at [cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:cconner@baltimorecountymd.gov).