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BILL NO.: **House Bill 897**

TITLE: **Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022**

SPONSOR: **Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request – Departmental
– Stadium Authority)**

COMMITTEE: **Appropriations**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: **March 15, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 897 – Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. This legislation would increase caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for sports entertainment facilities and establish the Sports Entertainment Facilities Financing Fund.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, stadiums across the country suffered tremendous financial setbacks as large gatherings threatened the public health of residents and many opted to enjoy sports events from home. Capital improvements continue to be critical for sports entertainment facilities to retain talent and remain competitive with nearby facilities.

Raising caps on debt issuance and debt service, and codifying continued State investment in sports entertainment facilities, would demonstrate Maryland’s commitment to partner with its stadiums to continue providing state-of-the-art facilities for our venerated sports teams. House Bill 897 allows the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds totaling \$200 million and establishes consistent funding for the construction and renovation of world-class sports entertainment facilities to be enjoyed by generations of Marylanders to come.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 897. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.