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BILL NO.: **SB 273**

TITLE: Environment – PFAS Chemicals – Prohibitions and Requirements (George “Walter” Taylor Act)

SPONSOR: Senator Elfreth

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: February 2nd, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 273 – Environment - PFAS Chemicals - Prohibitions and Requirements (George “Walter” Taylor Act). This legislation would prohibit a person from using, manufacturing, or knowingly selling certain products that contain added PFAS chemicals in the State.

According to the CDC, exposure to PFAS may interfere with the body’s natural hormones, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system and increase the risk of some cancers. As it currently stands, a majority of Americans have PFAS in their bloodstream. Firefighting foams are known to contain PFAS. When used, the foams introduce PFAS into underground or nearby water systems, contaminating our environment and poisoning our residents. By restricting the use of these foams, we can limit their introduction into the State’s ecosystem.

Last session, Baltimore County strongly advocated for tighter regulation of PFAS usage. The County was proud to see this legislation pass and lead the way for additional measures this session. SB 273 would restrict the use of firefighting foam, rugs and carpets, and food packing that contain PFAS. Prohibiting the use, manufacturing and sale of these items will help keep Maryland’s waterways clean and safe for all residents.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 273. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.