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BILL NO.: Senate Bill 269

TITLE: Open Meetings Act- Application and Enhanced Requirements (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022)

SPONSOR: Senator Kagan

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

DATE: March 22, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 269 – Open Meetings Act – Application and Enhanced Requirements (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022). This legislation would establish enhanced requirements for information available under the Open Meetings Act and expand public bodies subject to the law’s requirements.

The Open Meetings Act ensures that the all residents have access to deliberations made by publically funded bodies. Enhanced transparency allows residents to hold their government accountable by providing essential access to the decision-making process. Baltimore County has championed transparency by enhancing virtual access to County workgroups, expanding community input into the budget process, and working with community leaders to keep the public informed of the work being done on their behalf.

Senate Bill 269 expands the Open Meetings Act to public bodies previously excluded. This will assist in providing greater transparency across the State of Maryland, fostering the trust in our public institutions that is necessary for good government to function.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 269. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov.