



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB 400

February 16, 2023

TO: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Aloma Bouma, Chair, Baltimore City Mayor's Commission on Disabilities

RE: Senate Bill 400 – Places of Public Accommodation - Motion Picture Houses - Captioning

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 400.

The Baltimore City Mayor's Commission (Commission) on Disabilities is a dedicated organization established with the goal of promoting accessibility and equality for individuals with disabilities. As part of our mission, we closely evaluate programs and services for individuals with disabilities and make recommendations for legislative solutions to improve their accessibility.

In light of this, the Commission wholeheartedly endorses SB 400, sponsored by Senator Brooks, which requires movie theaters to provide open captioning for two days a week. The provision of open captioning has numerous benefits, including increasing accessibility for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, as well as those who are learning English or reading. Additionally, the measure provides support for those with late hearing loss.

The BCA and the Commission believe that everyone should have access to accommodations to enjoy a full life, regardless of disability. For these reasons, we request a **favorable** report on SB400.