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**TESTIMONY OF
THE
MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION
BEFORE THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 2020**

**HOUSE BILL 1663 – STATE GOVERNMENT - STATE OF EMERGENCY AND CATASTROPHIC
HEALTH EMERGENCY - AUTHORITY OF GOVERNOR (COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH
EMERGENCY PROTECTION ACT OF 2020)**

LETTER OF INFORMATION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony for House Bill 1663. House Bill 1663 authorizes the Governor to take certain actions as a result of the issuance of the March 5, 2020 proclamation declaring a state of emergency as it relates to COVID-19.

As drafted, the Maryland Insurance Administration urges the Committee to adopt a number of clarifying amendments that are needed to narrow the scope of House Bill 1663 and clarify that the intent of the bill is only related to COVID-19.

BY: Maryland Insurance Administration

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1663
(First Reading)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, after line 16, insert “(3) COVID-19” means, interchangeably and collectively, the coronavirus known as COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV and the SARS-CoV-2 virus”

On page 1, on Line 17, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”

On page 1, on Line 18, strike “(4)” and insert “(5)”

On page 1, on Line 20, strike “(5)” and insert “(6)”

Rationale: Defines what is known as the coronavirus.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, on Line 5, strike “disease” and insert “COVID-19”

On page 2, on Line 7, strike “disease” and insert “COVID-19”

On page 2, Line 10, after "immunization" insert "for COVID-19"

On page 2, Line 17, after "protocols" insert "for COVID-19”

On page 2, Line 20, after "services" insert "for COVID-19"

On page 2, Line 28, after "orders" insert "relating to COVID-19"

Rationale: This makes clear that the emergency powers are limited to issues relating to COVID-19.