

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

February 2, 2021

The Honorable Anne Kaiser, Chair Ways and Means Committee Room 131, House Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: House Bill 441 - Department of Assessments and Taxation - Identification Number for Business - Task Force - LETTER OF INFORMATION

Dear Chair Kaiser and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill 441 (HB 441) - Department of Assessments and Taxation - Identification Number for Business - Task Force.

HB 441 requires the Department of Assessments and Taxation to convene a task force to study and make recommendations on the adoption of a unique Maryland Identification Number for each registered or licensed business in the State. The task force would include representatives of various State agencies, including MDH.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 response efforts, MDH unfortunately does not have the fiscal or personnel resources to implement this bill if it is passed. Many of MDH's current personnel have already increased their workload and absorbed additional tasks that are critical to the COVID-19 response.

We recognize and value the importance of this bill and its impact on Marylanders. As such, we respectfully request this bill be held and reintroduced in the 2022 Session. We look forward to working with the bill sponsor(s) and appropriate stakeholders in the interim.

I hope this information is useful. If you have questions or need more information about this subject, please do not hesitate to contact me at (410) 260-3190 or <u>webster.ye@maryland.gov</u> or Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs Heather Shek at <u>heather.shek@maryland.gov</u> and the same number.

Sincerely,

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Webster Ye Assistant Secretary, Health Policy