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To: Members of the House Economic Matters Committee
From: Maryland Land Title Association Legislative Committee
Subject: **HB 637** – Insurance – Title Insurance Producers – Annual Review
Hearing Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022
Position: **Support with Updated Amendment**

The Maryland Land Title Association (MLTA) **supports House Bill 637 with amendment**. The bill seeks to eliminate the requirement that title insurers conduct the annual review of their policy issuing title producers “on-site” at the title producer’s place of business.

This bill authorizes a title insurer conducting the business of title insurance in the State to perform annual insurance producer reviews virtually or remotely by repealing the requirement that such reviews be conducted “on-site” and defining the methods by which the reviews may be performed.

For 2020 and 2021 the Commissioner authorized title insurers to conduct such reviews remotely given the health emergency created by COVID-19. During this period, reviews were performed off-site without any degradation in the results or outcomes of the reviews. As a result, all stakeholders recognize that the “in-person” (aka on-site) requirement adds no real benefit to the review process while increasing costs.

Although supportive of removing the on-site review requirement, the MLTA, in working with the Maryland Insurance Administration, has agreed to support an amendment to HB637, authorizing the Commissioner to draft a required, standard form for reporting violations of the Insurance Code. Accordingly, we support amending p. 2, line 25 of HB637 by adding to the end of that line: “IN A FORM AND FORMAT CREATED BY THE COMMISSIONER.”

For these reasons, the MLTA **supports with amendment House Bill 637 and asks that the amendment be adopted in a favorable report**.