

**ANTHONY G. BROWN**  
*Attorney General*

**CANDACE MCLAREN LANHAM**  
*Chief of Staff*

**CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*



**WILLIAM D. GRUHN**  
*Chief*  
Consumer Protection Division

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

Writer's Fax No.

410-576-7942  
kstraughn@oag.state.md.us  
Writer's Direct Dial No.  
Fax: 410-576-7040

February 15, 2023

To: The Honorable C. T. Wilson  
Chair, Economic Matters Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn  
Consumer Protection Division

Re: House Bill 27 – Commercial Law – Consumer Protection Act – Floral Wire Services  
(LETTER OF INFORMATION)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits this letter of information regarding House Bill 27 introduced by Delegate Mike Griffith. This bill would expand the Division's jurisdiction by providing it with mediation and enforcement authority over the billing practices between floral wire services, local florists and third-party sellers as well as require disclosure of when a floral wire service is purchasing from another wiring service and not directly from a local florist.

The Consumer Protection Division generally handles complaints made by a consumer concerning the practices of a business. Contrary to this, the billing and disclosure practices that are the subject of House Bill 27 are business to business transactions, which this office currently does not handle. As a result, we would not be in a position to know if the practices described in the bill need to be remedied or whether this proposed remedy would benefit consumers in any way.

However, should this Division be mandated to begin handling business to business transactions like the ones described in this bill, additional staffing would be needed in the form of at least ½ an Assistant Attorney General. These staffing needs may be greater depending on the number of complaints received about these practices.

For these reasons, the Consumer Protection Division respectfully requests that the Economic Matters Committee take the Division's concerns into consideration with respect to House Bill 27.

cc: The Honorable Mike Griffith  
Members, Economic Matters Committee