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March 8, 2024

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rhea L. Harris
Deputy Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1389 – Public Safety Officer – Performance of Duties – Death
Benefit- **Support**

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 1389.

House Bill 1389 alters circumstances under which individuals are presumed to have died as a direct and proximate result of an injury sustained in the performance of duties for purposes of eligibility for death benefits.

House Bill 1389 adds, in section 102(F) to the Public Safety Article, which will add a presumption of direct and proximate cause as result of a death in the line of duty. The OAG supports the efforts to provide benefits to those that lay down their lives every day for us. This will allow said individuals to receive in the line of duty death benefits.

For the forgoing reasons, the Office of Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 1389.

cc: Delegate Mary Lehman
Appropriations Committee Members