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**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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March 25, 2025

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Tiffany Clark
Director, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 1424 – Catastrophic Event Account, Federal Government
Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund, and Powers of the Attorney
General - Alterations (Protect Our Federal Workers Act) – **Support with
Amendments**

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) supports **House Bill 1424** - Catastrophic Event Account, Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund, and Powers of the Attorney General - Alterations (Protect Our Federal Workers Act) with amendments. **House Bill 1424** expands the purposes of the Catastrophic Event Account and the Federal Government Shutdown Employee Assistance Loan Fund. The bill also expands the Attorney General's powers under the Maryland Defense Act and increases a mandated appropriation to the OAG to at least \$2.5 million, with \$1.5 million authorized to be transferred to OAG from the Rainy Day Fund in fiscal 2025.

If the Committee decides to pass House Bill 1424, OAG requests that the bill be amended to specifically provide for the additional appropriation to the OAG be in general funds.

For these reasons, the OAG urges the Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a favorable with amendments report on **House Bill 1424**.

OAG Amendments to House Bill 1424

On page 8, in line 19, after “**\$2,500,000**” insert “**IN GENERAL FUNDS**”.