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Secretary  
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Deputy Secretary

**DATE:** February 24, 2026  
**BILL NO.:** House Bill 640  
**TITLE:** Mandated Reports, Boards, and Commissions - Revisions  
**COMMITTEE:** House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

### Letter of Support

#### **Description of Bill:**

House Bill 640 would make numerous changes to State reporting requirements and interagency councils and workgroups. Of note to DHCD are the alterations to the Interagency Council on Homelessness. This legislation would make DHCD's Secretary the Chair of the Interagency Council on Homelessness, and it would also allow the council to both provide compensation and reimburse expenses for members of the council who are "currently experiencing homelessness or [have] lived experience of homelessness".

#### **Background and Analysis:**

In shifting the role of chair for the Interagency Council on Homelessness to the Secretary of DHCD, the State would be reflecting that the Division of Homeless Solutions is overseen by the DHCD Secretary, and that the Division spearheads many of the policy initiatives related to homelessness around the State. Allowing the DHCD Secretary to chair the interagency council would also allow him, and the agency, to better respond to policy recommendations from the council.

Currently, members with the lived experience of homelessness, or who are currently homeless, cannot be compensated for their work on the Council. Other members of the council are indirectly compensated for their time by their employer through their salaries. However, those with lived experience commonly have lower paying employment and it can pose a hardship to them to participate on the council. Their voices are necessary in this conversation, and any impediment to their participation should be mitigated. No new funding is necessary to reimburse them for incidentals like ride fees or travel meals, as it can all be covered using existing resources within the Division of Homeless Solutions.

#### **DHCD Position**

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on House Bill 640.

