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April 25, 2017

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor of Maryland
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: *House Bill 4 and Senate Bill 46, "Hunting and Fishing Licenses – Active Military, Former Prisoners of War and Disabled Veterans" and House Bill 68, "Hunting and Fishing – Discounted Licenses – Purple Heart Recipients"*

Dear Governor Hogan:

We have reviewed House Bill 4, House Bill 68, and Senate Bill 46 for constitutionality and legal sufficiency and hereby approve each. We write to point out issues raised by the fact that the three bills amend the same section of current law.

All three bills provide discounted or complimentary hunting or fishing licenses or associated stamps to active military, former prisoners of war, purple heart award recipients, and disabled veterans. In general, all of the substantive changes made in Senate Bill 46 are also made in either House Bill 4 or House Bill 68. For the most part, the provisions in the bills match. There are, however, three different versions of Natural Resources Article, § 10-303(a), and the matters to be included in the report required by Section 2 vary between the three bills.

House Bill 68 changes "hunter's license" to "hunting license" at three places in § 10-301(a)(1) and (2)(i) and (ii), but makes no other changes in those provisions. House Bill 4 amends § 10-301(a)(2)(i) and (ii) to add the introductory language "SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF 10-301.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE," in reference to the certificate of competency requirement for issuance of a hunting license, but does not make the change from "hunter's license" to "hunting license." Senate Bill 46 makes both changes.

In addition, Section 2 of each bill requires the Department to report on certain matters. The lists of what is to be reported overlap to some extent but not completely. As uncodified sections,

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the different versions would not be cancelled out by signing order, but would add additional matters to report. In summary, signing Senate Bill 46 would enact all of the proposed changes, including the changes to § 10-303(a). If House Bill 4 and House Bill 68 are to be signed, and all of the changes are desired, Senate Bill 46 should be signed last.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian E. Frosh".

Brian E. Frosh
Attorney General

BEF/KMR/kd

cc: The Honorable John C. Wobensmith
Chris Shank
Warren Deschenaux