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April 11, 2022

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

***RE: House Bill 897***

Dear Governor Hogan:

We have reviewed and hereby approve House Bill 897, “Economic Development - Sports Entertainment Facilities and Events, Prince George’s County Blue Line Corridor Facilities, and Racing Facilities,” for constitutionality and legal sufficiency. We write simply to note that certain disbursements required by the bill must be supported by an appropriation.

Among other things, the bill amends State Government Article, § 9-120 to provide for the disbursement of lottery proceeds to the new Sports Entertainment Facilities Financing Fund (“Financing Fund”) and the new Prince George’s County Blue Line Corridor Facility Fund (“Facility Fund”).<sup>1</sup> Both of these funds are to be used by the Maryland Stadium Authority (“MSA”) to support the financing of sports entertainment facilities and Prince George’s County Blue Line Corridor facilities. Moreover, the bill authorizes MSA to pledge money in these funds to the payment of debt service on MSA bonds. If the Financing Fund and Facility Fund are to be operated as non-budgeted funds

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<sup>1</sup> The bill also provides for the allocation of lottery proceeds to the new Major Sports and Entertainment Event Program Fund (Economic development Article, § 10-611.2) and to the Department of Transportation to fund bus rapid transit system grants.

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outside of the State Treasury, which appears to be the case, it is our view that these disbursements require an appropriation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Brian E. Frosh", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Brian E. Frosh  
Attorney General

BEF/DWS/kd

cc: The Honorable John C. Wobensmith  
Keiffer J. Mitchell, Jr.  
Victoria L. Gruber