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To: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

From: Office of the Attorney General

Re: HB 1404 (SUPPORT)

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House Bill 1404 advances ethical government service by promoting transparency and establishing bright-line conflict of interest rules. The bill requires the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller to disclose to the Presiding Officers of the General Assembly and the Ethics Commission the nature of any business entity financial interest. The legislation prevents the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller from profiting from their respective posts.

Finally, under Section 5-607(l) of the bill, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Comptroller are required to disclose each source of income, other than government salary, earned during the reporting period. If the individual owns more than a 10% interest in any for-profit business entity, then the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General or Comptroller must name every other individual who holds a 10% or greater interest in the business. If the business is neither held in a blind trust nor divested, the reporting party must name each client of the business entity that paid \$5,000 or more to the business during the applicable period and the nature of the client's business with the entity.

Because HB 1404 will aid in the detection and deterrence of unethical behavior by Maryland Constitutional Officers, we urge a favorable report on the legislation.

cc: Environment and Transportation Committee Members

