



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

March 5, 2020

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Room 101, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: HB 1282 – Criminal Procedure – Vulnerable Adult Abuse Registry – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Clippinger:

The Maryland Department of Health (Department) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill 1282 (HB 1282) – Criminal Procedure – Vulnerable Adult Abuse Registry. HB 1282 requires the Maryland Department of Health to establish and maintain a registry containing the names of certain individuals who have been found by a State agency to have abused, neglected or exploited a vulnerable adult.

The Department currently has no program staff to support this registry. We estimate that the bill would require six full time employees and a new software system to manage the program. The bill does not include any additional revenue to support the program, and the Department estimates it would cost \$2.5 million of General Funds over five years.

The Department understands that there is another bill before this Committee that would study an alternative model for an adult protective services registry. House Bill 1527 (HB 1527) would create a workgroup to study the implementation of an adult services registry in Maryland. The registry would be maintained by the Department of Human Services (DHS), which currently houses the state's Office of Adult Protective Services. DHS submitted a letter of support for HB1527, and believes additional consideration is needed for successful implementation of an adult services registry in Maryland.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Director of Governmental Affairs, Webster Ye, at (410) 260-3190 or webster.ye@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary