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STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

March 31, 2021

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: The Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division

Re: House Bill 1153 (Names of Entities With Physician Membership –
Approval Requirement – Exemption): Favorable with Amendments

The Office of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division ("Division") supports House Bill 1153 with the amendments proposed by the sponsor. As amended, the bill would permit MedChi, the state medical society, to refer a non-exempt professional corporation's name application to the Department of Health instead of the Division if there is reason to believe the name is deceptive or misleading. We thank the sponsor for addressing the Division's concern that the original bill might have required the Division to render advisory opinions in advance of potential enforcement actions, a practice the Division strives to avoid.

We ask for a favorable report on the amended bill from the Committee.

cc: Sponsor