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

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: (Crossover) HB1186 – Office of the Attorney General – Firearm Crime, Injuries,
Fatalities, and Crime Firearms – Study – **Letter of Support**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and distinguished Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 1186.

During the 2020 session, the General Assembly passed House Bill 1629, legislation requiring the Office of the Attorney General to produce a firearm crime, injuries, and fatalities study. The law went into effect on June 1, 2020. The first of three reports required by the bill was due on December 1, 2020. Despite our efforts to solicit data from over 150 law enforcement agencies throughout the State, some jurisdictions were unable to compile and report the data in a timely manner during the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, we informed the bill's sponsor, Chair Clippinger of the House Judiciary Committee, that the initial report would be delayed. We are gratified that the Chair Clippinger of the House Judiciary Committee introduced HB 1186 to extend the time for our first report to December 1, 2021, and to make corresponding changes to the second and third reports so that they are now due on December 1, 2022, and December 1, 2023, respectively.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on HB 1186.

cc: Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee