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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 3, 2022

Chair Paul G. Pinsky
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: UNFAVORABLE – SB 812 – State Government – Cybersecurity – Coordination and Governance

Dear Chair Pinsky and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 812 would have a significant operational impact on the Maryland Public Service Commission. Notably, sections 4 and 5 would transfer all information technology appropriations, property, and staff from executive branch agencies to the Department of Information Technology. **I should be clear — disbanding the Commission's IT staff (and unique systems) would negatively impact the Commission's day-to-day operations, including its functioning as an independent, special-funded, quasi-judicial agency.**

The Commission currently engages in, and supports coordinated cybersecurity efforts headed by a central unit. Further, the Commission has spent years developing customized applications and services that are specific to its mission and reflect the confidential and highly sensitive priorities and processes of the Commission. Implementation of various directives of SB 812, as contained in sections 4 and 5, would be lengthy and resource-intensive.

The Commission urges an unfavorable vote on SB 812. In the alternative, an amendment to **remove sections 4 and 5** or an amendment to **exempt the Commission from Sections 4 and 5** would satisfy the concerns outlined above. Please contact Lisa Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, at (410) 336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Stanek".

Jason M. Stanek

Chairman