



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

March 9, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
Room 241, House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401- 1991

RE: HB 1370 – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund - Annual Funding and Extension – Letter of Information

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information on House Bill (HB) 1370 – Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund - Annual Funding and Extension.

The Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Fund (the Fund) is used to promote public education and awareness about organ, tissue, and eye donations and to maintain a donor registry. HB 1370 will alter the annual amount of money distributed from the Fund to a certain qualified nonprofit entity from \$400,000 to \$500,000. If passed, this change will take effect starting in fiscal year (FY) 2024. Additionally, HB 1370 will extend the termination date from September 30, 2023 to September 20, 2027.

During the 2018 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed House Bill (HB) 691. HB 691 updated the statute to require at least \$400,000 be distributed annually from the Fund to a certain qualified nonprofit. Prior to the passage of HB 691, the nonprofit would send invoices for reimbursement, rather than receive a set amount of fund distribution.

The Fund consists of optional one dollar (\$1.00) donations collected during the issuance or renewal of state driver's license, as outlined in Transportation Article § 16.111.2(f). Since enactment of HB 691, the Fund has only brought in approximately \$120,000 annually. The Fund is projected to be depleted by FY23; therefore, starting in FY23, the fund will be in a deficit of about \$280,000. The deficit will be \$380,000 if the required distribution is increased to \$500,000.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather Shek, Director of Governmental Affairs, at heather.shek@maryland.gov or 410-260-3190.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Schrader
Secretary