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March 8, 2022

To: The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

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

Re: HB0329 – Election Law – Ballots – Processing and Reporting Procedures – **Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report HB 329.

House Bill 329 would establish procedures for allowing a voter to “cure” the accidental omission of a signature on the oath on the absentee ballot envelope. It would also provide that absentee ballots can be canvassed before (but not during) early voting, and fix an existing ambiguity in the law about what ballot to count if a voter submits both an absentee and provisional ballot. In short, HB 329 serves the salutary purposes of expanding, not contracting, the electorate by ensuring that every vote is counted and that voters can cure errors or omissions when voting.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 329.

cc: Sponsor & Members of the Ways and Means Committee