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January 19, 2022

TO: The Honorable Paul Pinsky
Chair, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

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

RE: SB0162 – Property Tax - Deadline Extension for Homeowners to Redeem Property
Involved in a Tax Sale – **Letter of Support**

The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to favorably report SB 162. If passed, Senator Hester's bill will take effect on July 1, 2022. This bill would require the State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology to develop and publish a cyber safety guide and training course to be implemented in public schools beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

We advance three points in support of SB 162:

1. The bill is especially urgent given the rising internet crime in general and crimes against children in particular. The FBI's IC3 2020 Annual Internet Crime Report notes a 129% increase in reported internet crimes against children from 2018 – 2020).¹
2. The bill will increase awareness among those who interact most with students: teachers and school counselors. A 2020 survey of Maryland K12 by the National Cryptologic Foundation found that 60 of 88 teachers responding to the survey knew a little or nothing about cybersecurity. While only 8 school counselors from across the State responded, half stated that they knew only a "little" about cybersecurity.²
3. From the standpoint of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council, one of the benefits of awareness raising about cyber safety is that it increases awareness of cybersecurity as a

¹ See page 21 at https://www.ic3.gov/Media/PDF/AnnualReport/2020_IC3Report.pdf

² National Cryptologic Museum Foundation, Cybersecurity Survey of Maryland Public Education. September 2021, pp 6-7, at https://cryptologicfoundation.org/file_download/inline/71ce76fa-57ff-42cd-b735-d233a4358c70

field and will help build the talent pipeline that the State needs.³ Accordingly, the Council has recommended since 2016 “that the State expand its efforts to develop a pipeline of students interested in cybersecurity by exposing students to computer science in general, and *cybersecurity principles in particular*, at an early age.”⁴

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report of the Senate Bill 162.

cc: Committee Members

³ See for example, the 21 January 2021 minutes of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity Education and Workforce Development, p 2, at <https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/meeting-minutes-for-january-21-2021.pdf>).

⁴ 2016 Recommendation 10 at pp 15-16 of the July 2016 Interim Report of the Council (<https://www.umgc.edu/documents/upload/maryland-cybersecurity-council-initial-activities-report.pdf>).