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HEARING DATE: March 7, 2023

BILL: SB0723

TITLE: Corporations and Associations - Electronic Copies Fee - Repeal

SDAT POSITION: SUPPORT

The State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) strongly supports SB0723. This Departmental legislative proposal would remove the \$1 per page fee for certain documents when they are delivered electronically.

Since Spring 2020, approximately 90% of all new business filings and 80% of all business filings are submitted online through SDAT's Maryland Business Express online filing platform. Many of these business filings are submitted online with a request for a certified copy of the filing. Once the business filing is approved for legal sufficiency by SDAT staff and it is included in the business filing registry, a .pdf of a certified copy of the approved filing is automatically emailed back to the filer.

Statute, as currently written, still requires that SDAT collect \$1 per page for copies of business filings, even when the copies are returned in this digital format. The \$1 per page fee is calculated by counting the number of pages in the .pdf. The assumed original intent of the \$1 per page fee was to capture the costs associated with copying, printing, and returning a physical copy of the document.

SB0723 removes this fee from online processed copy requests to align with the fact that fewer resources are being expended by SDAT to generate a certified copy of these documents when the request is submitted online.

For this reason, SDAT strongly urges a favorable vote on SB0723.