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**TO:** The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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

**RE:** SB 0251 - State Government - Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs –  
Alterations (**Support**)

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Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and honorable members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee. The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Sen. Mary Washington's Senate Bill 251. The Commission on LGBTQ Affairs as currently established is made up of 15 individuals who reflect the gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of Maryland. These members are charged with understanding issues facing the LGBTQ community and advocating for solutions to the problems facing the community.

As our knowledge and understanding of sexual preference and gender identity continues to grow, so to must the Commission and its duties. That is why the Office of the attorney General Supports the renaming of the commission on LGBTQ Affairs to be the Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs to now include questioning, intersex, asexual, agender, or aromantic, and additional Marylanders. The Office of the Attorney General believes that SB 251 creates a more diverse and stronger commission to help ensure the voices of all LGBTQIA+ Marylanders can be heard, and their needs addressed.

For all the foregoing reasons the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 251.

cc: Sen. Mary Washington, Committee Members

This bill letter is a statement of the Office of Attorney General's policy position on the referenced pending legislation. For a legal or constitutional analysis of the bill, Members of the House and Senate should consult with the Counsel to the General Assembly, Sandy Brantley. She can be reached at 410-946-5600 or sbrantley@oag.state.md.us.