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TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health & Government Operations Committee

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

RE: HB0053 – Human Services – Maryland Statewide Independent Living
Council (Letter of Information)

The office of the Attorney General hereby provides this letter of information concerning House Bill 53, Delegate Forbes' bill to codify the Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council ("SILC") and to make the Attorney General the "legal advisor to the Council."¹

The current legal advisor to the SILC is a full-time assistant attorney general who had the responsibilities added to her caseload when she was promoted to Senior Counsel several years ago. Before that, the SILC did not have dedicated legal counsel. The bill creates a new board and will increase the advice and counsel and possible litigation workload for the assistant attorney general, including personnel, Open Meetings, Public Information Act, and procurement compliance. We believe that the additional responsibilities of advising the SILC and a Board will require at least an additional assistant attorney general who can devote half of their time to the Council and Board.

We trust that this information is of use to the Committee as it considers House Bill 53.

cc: Committee Members

¹ H.B. 53, 2023 Legis. Sess, 445th Gen. Assemb. (Md. 2023) § 7-1005(a).

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