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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: HB141 - State Government - Commission on LGBTQIA+ Affairs –
Alterations (**Support**)

Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Kelly, and honorable members of the House Health & Government Operations Committee. The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on Del. Qi's House Bill 141. 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 too 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 HB 141 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 House Bill 141.

cc: Del. Lily Qi, 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 House 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