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Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
Long-Term Care Subcommittee

House Chair

Joint Committee on Administrative,
Executive, and Legislative Review



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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I. Rosenberg

Before the House Health and Government Operations Committee

in Support of House Bill 817

State Government – Regulation Procedures and the Maryland Register

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

I am here today in my role as House chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), which is charged with assessing proposed new state regulations to determine whether they conform with legislative intent and statutory authority.

Since last fall, however, when an upgrade to the electronic filing system that state agencies use to submit regulations went awry, the AELR has been struggling to fulfill its responsibilities. While the new administration appears to be committed to resolving the technology problem and the AELR staff have identified some temporary workarounds, the current situation highlights the lack of established procedures for the submission, review, tracking, and publication of proposed and emergency regulations.

HB 817 is intended to resolve that issue and was drafted with advice from the Office of Attorney General. In particular, it clarifies the respective requirements of the Joint Committee and the Department of Legislative Services in fulfilling their responsibilities to *review* regulations, and those of the Division of State Documents to *publish* regulations in the Maryland Register.

In addition to addressing the current challenges with the submission and review of regulations, this legislation would provide the public with better access to information about pending and enacted regulations by increasing the number of recent issues of the Maryland Register available to the public online. Currently, the last 3 issues are available electronically without charge; this bill would expand that number to at least the last 15 issues.

I urge the committee to give HB 817 a favorable report.

March 8, 2023