

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General



CANDACE McLAREN LANHAM
Chief of Staff

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

FACSIMILE NO.
(410) 576-7036

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.
(410) 576-6584

February 21, 2023

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

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

RE: HB546 Education - Service Year Option Program - Establishment (Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023) **(Support)**

The Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 546, the Serving Every Region Through Vocational Exploration Act of 2023. HB546 creates a service year option for Maryland high school graduates. The participants of this program will receive career exploration and mentoring support while serving their communities through partnerships with nonprofit organizations. HB546 incorporates a flexible design to allow for programs that appeal to a wide variety of young people with an expansive range of career interests. The program will serve as a springboard for participants to enter post-service year employment, higher education, or apprenticeships while cultivating a culture of service in communities across the state.

For all the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General requests a favorable report on House Bill 546.

cc: 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.