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February 15, 2023

TO: The Honorable Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary Committee

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

RE: HB0591 – Criminal Procedure – Restitution Orders – Recording Fees
(Support)

The Office of Attorney General supports HB 591, Minority Leader Buckel's bill to prohibit courts from charging crime victims fees when recording and indexing as a money judgment an order of restitution issued by any court in the State. Crime victims who are owed restitution from the individuals who harmed them may obtain an order of restitution in County A (where the crime was prosecuted), and need to record and index the restitution order as a money judgment in County B (where the defendant resides). Survivors of crime should not be further victimized by having to pay recordation and indexing fees charged by State courts.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge a favorable report on House Bill 591.

cc: Minority Leader Buckel and 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