



Secular Maryland

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**HB 771 - SUPPORT**

Human Relations - Patterns and Practices of Civil Rights Violations - Remedies

Dear Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Civil rights violations by state agencies can be a serious problem that our laws should guard against. The Delaware Attorney General has authority to enforce laws designed to ensure citizen trust in government, including election laws, laws governing the use of public funds, and laws governing the conduct of public employees and officials. This bill is narrower, it authorizes the Attorney General to investigate and initiate civil action against only some state agencies. Secular Maryland favors strengthening state level civil rights protections and supports this bill. We would support giving the Attorney General even more comprehensive jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute unlawful government conduct than this bill proposes.

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