



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 27, 2024

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 996  
Consumer Protection - Consumer Council - Name Change and Other Modifications**

Good afternoon Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby and members of the House Economic Matters Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to present HB 996 for your consideration.

HB 996 would change the name of the Consumer Council to the Consumer Protection Commission in the Division of Consumer Protection in the Office of the Attorney General. As such, the nine members who are appointed to serve would be considered Commissioners.

The Consumer Council is responsible for advising the Division of Consumer Protection and serves as a voice for consumers, businesses, and the greater public. Members from the Council expressed a desire to change the name of this body, which would better enable them to connect, educate, and engage Marylanders about the work they do. Changing the name of the Consumer Council to the Consumer Protection Commission will be a helpful tool to improve communications with the public and ensure Marylanders know this body exists to serve them.

After consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, I accepted their amendments and submitted sponsor amendments that would reflect this request. These amendments strike language on page 3, line 22-23, which restores the expense provision and removes "and other modifications" in the title of the bill. These amendments do not impact the fiscal note.

We applaud the work of the Consumer Council and look forward to taking this next step with a name change that will further bolster their work.

I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. White Holland".

Delegate Jennifer White Holland