



**Testimony in support of HB1158: State Government – Attorney General – Reports  
Hearing before the Health and Government Operations Committee  
March 8, 2024  
Submitted by Tonya Aikens, Howard County Library System President & CEO**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice Chair Cullison, and Distinguished Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express support, with amendment, for **HB1158: State Government – Attorney General – Reports** which would allow publishing Opinions of the Attorney General and the Annual Report online.

We respectfully request that HB1158 be amended as follows:

The Attorney General annually shall [have published, in bound volume] **PUBLISH ON THE WEBSITE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL in accordance with the Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act as codified in State Government, § 10-1601 to 1611.**  
(State Government, § 6-108 (d))

The Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA) becomes effective when a publisher, in this case, the Office of the Attorney General, no longer makes its primary source materials available in print. The purpose of the Act is to ensure that primary source law is (1) authenticated by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered; (2) preserved, either in electronic or print form; and (3) accessible for use by the public permanently.

Reference to UELMA in HB1158 will ensure that Attorney General Opinions and Reports published online are guaranteed the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by print publications.

An amendment to HB1158 that ensures adherence to the provisions of UELMA will provide for a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach that will ensure that online Attorney General Opinions and Reports will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form.

Thank you for your support of Maryland libraries, and we ask that you **favorably recommend HB1158, with amendment**, for passage.

Sincerely,

Tonya Aikens,  
President & CEO