

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

ZENITA WICKHAM HURLEY
Chief, Equity, Policy, and Engagement



**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

ANTHONY G. BROWN
Attorney General

PETER V. BERNIS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief Operating Officer

February 12, 2025

TO: The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, Appropriations Committee

FROM: Rhea Harris
Deputy Chief, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: House Bill 876 -Access to Counsel in Eviction- Special Fund - Alteration –
Letter of Concern

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) respectfully offers this letter of information to the Committee on **House Bill 876** – Access to Counsel in Eviction – Special Fund – Alterations. **HB 876** alters the contents of the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund to include money received by the Antitrust Division in the OAG from a final settlement, an agreement, or a judgment relating to a certain violation of the Maryland Antitrust Act, excluding restitution and certain costs the Attorney General is entitled to recover. While the intent behind **HB 876** is good, OAG believes the bill may lead to negative unintended consequences in the way our antitrust settlements are handled.

The OAG respectfully requests that the committee consider this in their deliberations of **HB 876**.

cc: House Appropriations Committee Members