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To: Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Jim Pauli, Chair, Government Affairs Committee, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Section Council

Date: February 12, 2025

Subject: HB 159

Position: **Support** the use of arbitrators to oversee all aspects of collective bargaining for State employees

HB 159 seeks to require the selection of a neutral arbitrator to oversee all aspects of collective bargaining for State employees.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association supports any ADR process to assist the parties to come to some resolution on the matters they deem important. We therefore support the use of ADR processes proposed by this bill.

SB 288 was the cross-filed bill that was referred to the Senate Budget, Taxation and Finance Committee. The hearing was scheduled for 1/22 at 10:30AM. No vote has occurred. We urge the support of HB 159, and that it be conformed to SB 288.

The Section **supports HB 159 so far as it offers the use of Arbitration as part of the collective bargaining process for State employees.**

Should you have any questions, please contact James Pauli, Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee and Secretary of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Council, jim.pauli.ijs@gmail.com

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