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BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS FOR ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Board of License Commissioners Position: Anne Arundel County – Board of License Commissioners – Alterations – SB0972

Synopsis:

Increasing from three to five the membership of the Board of License Commissioners for Anne Arundel County; altering the eligibility requirements for Board membership; requiring the Board to adopt and publish a certain ethics policy; requiring the Board to include an option to provide certain information on an application for the issuance of a license or a license renewal; and requiring the Board to submit a report on the racial breakdown of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board to the General Assembly each year.

The Board of License Commissioners' position:

The Board is opposed to two provisions of the proposed legislation: (1) The inclusion of an option for licensees to self-identify their ethnicity and; (2) the requirement for the Board to submit a report on the racial breakdown of the disciplinary actions taken by the Board each year.

Why is the Board opposed to these provisions?

The Board was recently made aware that some licensees perceive unfair disciplinary treatment due to their ethnicity. No examples were provided and no evidence was put forth in connection with these allegations, which the Board strongly denies. The Board feels that this proposed legislation is a knee-jerk reaction intended to resolve a non-existent problem.

Regarding the collection of ethnicity data: Data collected voluntarily would be subject to self-selection bias, nonresponse bias, misreporting, and lack of standardization. In addition to the questionable reliability of such data, the Board does not have the resources or expertise to assemble such a report based on such data. The Board is concerned that such flawed data could be manipulated to suggest there are problems where none actually exist

Position Summary:

Respectfully, the Board does not support this legislation as proposed, based on the conclusions outlined above.

Thank you and we hope this input is helpful.