

CAROLYN A. QUATTROCKI
Chief Deputy Attorney General

LEONARD J. HOWIE III
Deputy Attorney General

CARRIE J. WILLIAMS
Deputy Attorney General

SHARON S. MERRIWEATHER
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. BERNS
General Counsel

CHRISTIAN E. BARRERA
Chief Operating Officer

March 10, 2025

TO: The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee

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

RE: **HB1448** – Animal Testing and Research - Alternative Nonanimal Test
Methods – Letter of Information

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) does not believe it should be the only enforcement agency for animal testing facilities. OAG would like to continue to share these responsibilities with the MD Department of Health (MDH) taking the lead.

House Bill 1448 prohibits research facilities in the State from using a traditional animal test method if an alternative nonanimal test method has received approval or the requirement to use a traditional animal test method is waived. It also requires research facilities to conduct testing using traditional animal test methods in a certain manner; and requires the Attorney General to enforce the Act.

Currently, said facilities are already required to submit information to the Department of Health and should submit reports to the same Department to fulfill the requirements in HB1448. If MDH determines that the facility has not complied with the law in HB1448, the Department and/or the Office of the Attorney General can investigate and bring enforcement action.

For the aforementioned reasons, the OAG would prefer to share enforcement responsibilities with MDH.