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COUNTY ATTORNEY
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February 12, 2025

The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger
Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: House Bill 0775 –Somerset County – Death of Incarcerated Individual- Notification

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Board of Commissioners for Somerset County wish to state their support of House Bill 0775 – Death of Incarcerated Individual – Notification.

As we understand, this bill will notify governmental authorities when there is an incarcerated individual's death while in the custody of the Division of Correction. Additionally, this legislation will also require the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to adopt certain regulations relating to the death of incarcerated individuals. Such notification is necessary to increase transparency. In many instances, governmental authority learns of the death of an incarcerated individual detained in our local jail by hearing it from media. As governmental authorities we find this troubling and hinders to our commitment we feel we must provide to our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration, and we therefore recommend a **favorable report** on HB 0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Charles Laird', is written over a light blue circular background.

Charles Laird
President

Cc: Delegate Otto