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Senate Bill 22 – Department of Disabilities – Housing Programs and Affiliated Foundations

Testimony Before the Finance Committee

The State Ethics Commission provides this informational written testimony to explain the impact of this proposed legislation on the agency. This legislation provides for exemptions from certain conflict of interest provisions of the Public Ethics Law for agency employees serving in specific roles with the agency-affiliated foundation. The legislation is consistent with prior legislation allowing similar exemptions for the employees of other State agencies who serve in various capacities with other agency-affiliated foundations with other State agencies such as the Maryland Stadium Authority, the Historic St. Mary's City Commission, and the Department of Natural Resources. In those instances, the exemption provisions for affiliated foundation activities are contained in the agency's specific enabling statute for the affiliated foundation rather than in the provisions of the Public Ethics Law.

Senate Bill 22 will not have a fiscal impact on the State Ethics Commission. The legislation would have a small operational impact on the agency. The State Ethics Commission will be required to work with the Department of Disabilities (DoD) to provide guidance and receive reports related to DoD officials or employees serving as an official or director of an agency affiliated foundation.