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House Bill 166 – Public Health – Henrietta Lacks Commission – Establishment (Henrietta Lacks Commission of Maryland Act of 2026)

Testimony Before the Government, Labor and Elections Committee

The State Ethics Commission provides this informational written testimony to explain the impact of this proposed legislation on the agency. The proposed legislation requires that the Governor appoint a representative of the State Ethics Commission to serve on the Henrietta Lacks Commission. The State Ethics Commission has no jurisdiction over or expertise in the matters the Henrietta Lacks Commission will advise on, including bioethical oversight of life sciences activities in Maryland that involve human research or body, organ, and tissue donation for medical training. The State Ethics Commission respectfully requests that the Committee consider amending the legislation to remove the State Ethics Commission representative from the membership of the Henrietta Lacks Commission.