



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Acting Secretary

January 27, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation
3 West Miller Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB0172 – Maryland Health Equity Resource Act – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) submits this letter of information with amendments for SB0172 – Maryland Health Equity Resource Act.

The MDH has submitted operational impact information to the fiscal and policy note for SB 172 should this committee report this bill favorable for its consideration.

The MDH respectfully suggests that should the committee report this bill favorable it considers the following technical questions:

- (1) Section 20-1403: Whether a term limit is appropriate for seat (B)(1)(VII) to the Committee membership to follow standard appointment procedures for Governor appointees;
- (2) Section 20-1403: Whether seats (B)(1)(I) through (B)(1)(VI) should be appointed by the Secretaries of the Department, the Department of Human Services, and the Health Services Cost Review Commission Executive Director.
- (3) We request clarification on the ambiguous language on page 21, lines 21-27 regarding CHW certification for eligibility for tax credit. The use of the term “certification” may be misinterpreted to mean that a CHW may apply for the CHW professional credential (certification) through entities including nonprofit organizations and local governments approved by the Secretary to establish a HERC or that professional certification by MDH makes a CHW eligible for the tax credit. The Department offers the following amendment to clarify the apparent intent of the term “certification”:

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 21, strike “**FOR CERTIFICATION**” in line 23 and substitute “**TO BE CERTIFIED AS ELIGIBLE FOR THE CREDITS**”.

I hope this information is useful. If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at webster.ye@maryland.gov / (410) 260-3190 or Heather Shek, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs at heather.shek@maryland.gov and at the same phone number.

Sincerely,

Webster Ye
Assistant Secretary, Health Policy