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TO: The Honorable Vanessa Atterbary
Chair, Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB 1047 – Juvenile Services Education Program – Transfer of Locally
Employed Educational Professionals (**SUPPORT**)

The Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 1047. Delegate Ebersole's bill seeks to ensure that locally employed educational professionals, upon transferring to the Juvenile Services Education Program, shall be placed in a position comparable to the professional's former position, compensated at the same hourly rate as their former position at the time of transfer, and retain accumulated leave and leave rates provided by the local employer after the transfer.

Providing youth within the justice system with a high-quality education is a critical component of improving academic and behavioral outcomes, and redirecting youth to a more productive future.¹ The recruitment and retention of qualified education staff can have a positive impact on the learning environment within the juvenile justice system, and has been identified as a best practice for improving student outcomes.² This bill will protect educators from losing pay or leave upon transfer to the Juvenile Services Education Program, removing barriers that may otherwise discourage qualified educators from performing this important rehabilitative work.

For the foregoing reasons, the Office of the Attorney General urges a favorable report on House Bill 1047.

cc: Members of the Ways and Means Committee

¹ *Education for Youth Under Formal Supervision of the Juvenile Justice System*, U.S. DEP'T OF JUSTICE., OFF. OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION (Jan. 2019).

² *See Guiding Principles for Providing High-Quality Education in Juvenile Justice Secure Care Settings*, U.S. DEP'T OF EDUC. & DEP'T OF JUSTICE (Dec. 2014).