

INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF MARYLAND, INC.

DBA BIG I MARYLAND



House Economic Matters Committee

House Bill 1098

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Dear Chairman Wilson and the Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

The BIG I MARYLAND ("Big I") is the State's oldest trade association of independent insurance agents. It represents 200 independent agencies, which employ over 2000 people in the state. We represent independent insurance agents and brokers who present consumers with a choice of policy options from a variety of different insurance companies. These small, medium, and large businesses offer a variety of insurance products – including property, casualty, life, health, employee benefit plans, and retirement products.

The Big I supports HB1098 with an amendment to add a member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Maryland to the workgroup contemplated in the bill. Adding a representative from the Independent Insurance Agents of Maryland ensures that the perspectives and expertise of independent insurance professionals are included in the work group's discussions and decision-making processes.

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(To be offered in the Economic Matters Committee)

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 1098
(Second Reading)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 6, after line 13, insert “(III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS OF MARYLAND;”

RATIONALE

Adding a representative from the Independent Insurance Agents of Maryland ensures that the perspectives and expertise of independent insurance professionals are included in the work group's discussions and decision-making processes.