

# HOUSE BILL 826

P1

(5lr0407)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Health and Government Operations/Education, Energy, and the Environment —

Introduced by **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request  
– Departmental – Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs)**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~State Government Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on~~ Office of Small,  
3 Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Repeal of Interdepartmental Advisory  
4 Committee – Repeal and Definitions and Establishment of the Governor’s  
5 Subcabinet on Socioeconomic Procurement Participation

6 FOR the purpose of repealing the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small,  
7 Minority, and Women Business Affairs within the Office of Small, Minority, and  
8 Women Business Affairs; establishing the Governor’s Subcabinet on Socioeconomic  
9 Procurement Participation to study and make recommendations on socioeconomic  
10 procurement in the State; requiring the Subcabinet to conduct certain meetings and  
11 report annually to the Governor ~~altering the definition of “minority person” for the~~  
12 ~~purpose of certain provisions of law governing the Office;~~ and generally relating to  
13 the ~~Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on~~ Office of Small, Minority, and Women  
14 Business Affairs.

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#### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.*



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 2 Article – State Government  
 3 Section 9–301  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

6 BY repealing  
 7 Article – State Government  
 8 Section 9–303.1  
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 *BY adding to*  
 12 *Article – State Government*  
 13 *Section 9–303.1*  
 14 *Annotated Code of Maryland*  
 15 *(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)*

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – State Government**

19 9–301.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 ~~(b) [“Interdepartmental Committee” means the Interdepartmental Advisory~~  
 22 ~~Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.]~~

23 **(B) “GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET ON**  
 24 **SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PARTICIPATION.**

25 (c)† (1) “Minority person” means:

26 (i) an individual who has been deprived of the opportunity to  
 27 develop and keep a competitive position in the economy because of a social or economic  
 28 disadvantage that arises from cultural, racial, or other similar causes; or

29 (ii) ~~a sheltered workshop for individuals with disabilities~~ **A**  
 30 **NONPROFIT ENTITY WHICH IS INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OR OTHERWISE**  
 31 **QUALIFIED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE, HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE**  
 32 **INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3),**  
 33 **(4), OR (6) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AND IS ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE THE**

1 ~~INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES~~ A SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR  
2 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

3 (2) "Minority person" includes:

4 (i) an Aleut;

5 (ii) an American Indian;

6 (iii) a Black;

7 (iv) an Eskimo;

8 (v) a Hispanic;

9 (vi) an Oriental;

10 (vii) a Puerto Rican; or

11 (viii) a woman.

12 ~~[(d)] (C)~~ "Office" means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business  
13 Affairs.

14 ~~[(e)] (D)~~ "Special Secretary" means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small,  
15 Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

16 [9-303.1.

17 (a) There is an Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and  
18 Women Business Affairs.

19 (b) The Interdepartmental Committee is composed of:

20 (1) the secretary of each principal department of the Executive Branch of  
21 government, or the secretary's designee;

22 (2) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

23 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary's designee; and

24 (4) the Special Secretary.

25 (c) The Interdepartmental Committee shall:

1 (1) advise the Special Secretary on proposals to implement and enhance  
2 the duties of the Office, including the promotion of employment of minority persons in the  
3 State, and the promotion of the growth and participation of minority business enterprises  
4 in the State;

5 (2) gather such information the Committee deems necessary to promote  
6 the goals of the Office;

7 (3) provide such other assistance as may be required to further the  
8 purposes of §§ 9-304 and 9-305 of this subtitle; and

9 (4) meet at the call of the Special Secretary.]

10 **9-303.1.**

11 **(A) THERE IS A GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET ON SOCIOECONOMIC**  
12 **PROCUREMENT PARTICIPATION.**

13 **(B) THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET IS COMPOSED OF:**

14 **(1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF**  
15 **SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR**  
16 **OF THE SUBCABINET;**

17 **(2) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OR THE**  
18 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

19 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

20 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
21 **DESIGNEE;**

22 **(5) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

23 **(6) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,**  
24 **OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

25 **(7) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
26 **DESIGNEE;**

27 **(8) THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE**  
28 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

29 **(9) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL**  
30 **SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

1           (10) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S  
2 DESIGNEE;

3           (11) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, OR THE  
4 SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

5           (12) THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR THE STATE, OR THE  
6 CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER'S DESIGNEE;

7           (13) THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OMBUDSMAN, OR THE  
8 OMBUDSMAN'S DESIGNEE; AND

9           (14) ANY OTHER HEAD OF A DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY THAT IS  
10 ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GOVERNOR, AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GOVERNOR.

11        (C) THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET SHALL:

12           (1) MEET:

13                (I) A MINIMUM OF ONCE EACH QUARTER; AND

14                (II) AT A FREQUENCY DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE CHAIR;

15           (2) STUDY SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS IN OTHER  
16 STATES TO IDENTIFY SUCCESSES AND BEST PRACTICES;

17           (3) DEVELOP ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR PROCUREMENT  
18 FORECASTS, STRATEGIC PLANS, PROCUREMENT REVIEW GROUP PROCESSES, AND  
19 LIAISON OFFICER ACCOUNTABILITY;

20           (4) WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT TO  
21 IMPLEMENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT SOCIOECONOMIC  
22 PROCUREMENT BUSINESSES' ABILITY TO FAIRLY COMPETE FOR AND UNDERSTAND  
23 STATE CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES;

24           (5) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY  
25 REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE STATE'S SOCIOECONOMIC  
26 PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS; AND

27           (6) RECOMMEND ACTIONS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SMALL  
28 BUSINESS RESERVE PROGRAM, THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM,  
29 AND THE VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

1            (D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND EACH DECEMBER 1  
 2 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR  
 3 ON THE GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET’S ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS, AND  
 4 RECOMMENDATIONS.

5            SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 6            October 1, 2025.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.