

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
Secretary

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: **House Bill 125**
Board of Public Works – Land Acquisition - Requirements

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations

DATE: February 4, 2020

POSITION: Letter of Information

House Bill 125 would prohibit the Board of Public Works (BPW) from approving a real property acquisition valued at \$500,000 or more unless certain tasks are first completed. Those tasks include providing the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) with an acquisition justification and an acquisition cost-benefit analysis. The LPC would have 45 days to review and comment on the acquisition. Should the acquisition be from the Federal government and would require Maryland to provide ongoing maintenance, a study must be completed of the ongoing fiscal impact.

It should be noted that the additional 45-day notice requirement for the acquisition of property valued at \$500,000 or greater may cause the State to lose out on the purchase of a property should a seller be unwilling to wait for the notification period to lapse. Additionally, if the State is competing for a property and another willing purchaser is able to acquire the property more quickly, the State would be unsuccessful in purchasing the property.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.

