

Legislative Testimony 33.pdf

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Legislative Testimony:
SB33

I strongly support Senator Arthur Ellis's Senate Bill 33

**RICHARD
ELLIOTT**
FOR MARYLAND

By Authority: Rich Elliott For Maryland Keanuu Smith-Brown, Campaign Chair Christian Hillian, Treasurer

SMMCOC SB33 2021.pdf

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**SOUTHERN MARYLAND
MINORITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

TO MAKE A COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE FOR ALL



February 1, 2021

The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Pinsky,

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Maryland Minority Chamber of Commerce (SMMCOC) to voice our support for **SB33 – State and County Procurement - Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals**. As a regional voice for small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses across Southern Maryland, we are very in tune with the struggles and hardships that many business owners in our communities face. For the last seven years, we have sought to protect the interests of these local businesses while promoting development and innovation across Calvert County, Charles County, St. Mary's County and Southern Prince George's County. As an all-volunteer foundation, the Covid-19 pandemic has been exceptionally hard on the SMMCOC and our members. Nevertheless, we have seen the promising growth our region has made in recent years, and we are hopeful that the State of Maryland will continue to protect small, minority, women, and veteran owned businesses.

The proposed legislation would result in a positive change to the culture of our community and shine a light on the disadvantages minority-owned businesses face in Maryland. The current participation goals established by the State have been a net-positive for our local business owners and we are encouraged that the State may continue advancing these goals. For the continued advancement of minority-owned businesses in Southern Maryland, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

Doris Cammack-Spencer
President/CEO

SB0033-EHE_MACo_OPP.pdf

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Position: UNF



Senate Bill 33

State and County Procurement - Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals

MACo Position: **OPPOSE**

To: Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs Committee

Date: February 3, 2021

From: Alex Butler

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **OPPOSES** SB 33 as the bill applies multiple detailed State mandates to county-level procurement operations.

This bill proposes a broad overhaul of the State's procurement systems, many of which apply to county governments. Its reach is broad, and it seemingly proposes to revisit the central objectives of the whole program – with eventual effects that are not easy to discern. If the General Assembly is interested in a broad review of these laws and their policy and social objectives, that undertaking may require a stakeholder work group or more formal Task Force to fairly weigh these many refinements.

SB 33, as introduced, requires that county procurement officers develop specific participation goals for a select group under an existing Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program. County MBE programs are successful at fostering increased participation of minority owned and operated businesses in local government contracts. Participation is aided by preference given to qualifying businesses within the framework of an MBE program. That work is rooted in disparity studies and sets the standard from which counties ensure fair participation. The bill would alter the requirement in favor of a new personal net worth standard and require that counties develop specific goals to that effect, potentially unbalancing carefully designed programs.

For these reasons, MACo requests the Committee give SB 33 an **UNFAVORABLE** report, and if warranted, engage a broader review to consider its many suggested changes.

2021 SB 33 MBE Participation Goals DGS OPP EHEA 2-

Uploaded by: Robertson, Ellen

Position: UNF

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt Governor



Ellington E. Churchill, Jr.
Secretary

Nelson E. Reichart
Deputy Secretary

OFFICE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & ENERGY

BILL: Senate Bill 33
State and County Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program
Participation Goals

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health & Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 3, 2021

POSITION: Oppose

Upon review of Senate Bill 33 – State and County Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program Participation Goals, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments in opposition to the bill.

Senate Bill 33 separates minority business enterprises (MBEs) into two business groups, (1) socially and economically disadvantaged and (2) with origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.

The MBE certification process and tracking are managed and maintained through the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). Under Senate Bill 33, the certification program would have to separately establish criteria and track certification.

The Governor’s Office for Small, Minority and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) may require additional resources to provide guidance and training to the vendor and agency communities for MBE participation goal setting and compliance.

The DGS Office of State Procurement (OSP) would need to determine what subcontracting opportunities are available for each MBE group and for each State contact. The bill would require OSP to duplicate their MBE analysis efforts thus potentially requiring additional support staff.

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

