



Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Atif Chaudhry, Acting Secretary

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**BILL:** Senate Bill 451 - Procurement Improvement Council - Membership

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation

**DATE:** February 22, 2023

**POSITION:** Support

Upon review of Senate Bill 451 - Procurement Improvement Council - Membership, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill adds the Comptroller to the Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) membership. The PIC was created per Chapter 590, Laws of Maryland 2017 (House Bill 1021), effective October 1, 2019. The purpose of the PIC is to ensure that the State is addressing various procurement policies and procedures related to State procurement and to advise the General Assembly on proposed legislation in order to enhance the efficiency and transparency of State procurement. The PIC meets quarterly with stakeholders to address any concerns related to State procurement. The PIC meets quarterly with several dozen stakeholders from state agencies, local government, procurement units, legislators, and members of the general public to address any concerns related to state procurement.

Currently, the State Treasurer is a statutory member of the PIC, adding the Comptroller would provide additional benefits to the PIC, including critical insight into improvements that can be made to the State's procurement process and issues facing businesses.

DGS supports the amendment offered by the sponsor to provide a forum for the discussion of strategies to increase the participation of small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses on procurement contracts, based on the recommendation of the Attorney General.

**DGS supports Senate Bill 451 and urges a favorable report.**

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