



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

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

**COMMITTEE:** House Health and Government Operations

**DATE:** March 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.

The Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) was created per Chapter 590, Laws of 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.

Senate Bill 451 before you today adds the Comptroller to the Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) membership. Adding the Comptroller to the PIC will provide critical insight into improvements that can be made to the State's procurement process and issues facing businesses. The bill also includes language to provide a forum for the discussion of strategies to increase the participation of small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses on procurement contracts.

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

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