

KEVIN M. HARRIS
Legislative District 27A
Charles and Prince George's Counties

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 225
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3257 · 301-858-3257
800-492-7122 Ext. 3257
Kevin.Harris@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Pena-Melnyk and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

House Bill 809 seeks to alter termination dates for certain provisions of the laws that govern the Minority Business Enterprise Program and dates when certain reports and studies need to be submitted. It would initiate a study on the Minority Business Enterprise Program to evaluate compliance with *the City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.* Supreme Court decision. This decision held that a program which gave preference to minority business enterprises was unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause. It would also evaluate race-neutral programs and other methods to help address the needs of minority businesses.

The deadline for the submission of the study's findings would be December 31, 2023, to ensure that the General Assembly can review them before the next legislative session. This bill is essential for minority owned businesses to thrive in the future.

As such, I urge a favorable report on House Bill 809.

Respectfully,

Kevin M. Harris

Delegate Kevin M. Harris

Legislative District 27A – MD