



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

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Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962 – State Procurement – Small and Minority Business Reserve Program (Parran J. Mitchell MBE Prime Contracting Act)

FAVORABLE

Carrington & Associates, LLC is writing to express our strong support for Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962, also known as the "Parran J. Mitchell MBE Prime Contracting Act," which proposes significant enhancements to the Small and Minority Business Reserve Program in the state of Maryland. This bill demonstrates a commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in state procurement, aligning with our organization's values. Thank you to Sen. Charles and Del. Boaf for introducing this important legislation.

Key features of for Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962 include:

1. **Expansion of Small Business Reserve Program to Include Minority Businesses:** The bill seeks to alter the Small Business Reserve Program, making it the Small and Minority Business Reserve Program. This expansion recognizes the importance of ensuring opportunities for certified minority business enterprises (MBEs) in state procurement.
2. **Minimum Percentage Requirement for Certified Minority Business Enterprises:** The legislation requires state government units, to the extent practicable, to structure their procurement procedures to achieve a minimum percentage of the total dollar value of certain contracts directly awarded to certified minority business enterprises. This proactive approach ensures a more inclusive and equitable distribution of procurement opportunities.
3. **Study of the Minority Business Enterprise Program and Small and Minority Business Reserve Program:** for Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962 initiates a comprehensive study of the Minority Business Enterprise Program and the Small and Minority Business Reserve Program. This study aims to evaluate the continued compliance of these programs with legal requirements, including those arising from the

Croson decision, and explores race-neutral programs and other methods to address the needs of minority businesses.

4. **Reporting Requirements:** The bill introduces reporting requirements for units to submit annual reports on the utilization of small and minority business reserve vendors, providing transparency and accountability in the state's procurement processes.

We believe that for Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962 represents a progressive step towards fostering diversity and inclusivity in state contracting. By actively promoting opportunities for certified minority business enterprises, Maryland can set an example for other states in creating a more equitable business environment.

Our organization fully endorses for Senate Bill 673\House Bill 962 and encourages your support for its passage. This legislation not only aligns with our commitment to diversity but also contributes to the economic growth and empowerment of minority businesses in the state.

If you would like additional information and/or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darrell Carrington, Managing Director, darrell.carrington@verizon.net or 732-763-7398 cellphone.