

**for Senate Bill 673 House Bill 962 MBE Procurement**

Uploaded by: Darrell Carrington

Position: FAV



**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](mailto:darrell.carrington@verizon.net) or 732-763-7398 cellphone.

# **SB673 Written Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Senator Nick Charles

Position: FAV

NICK CHARLES  
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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**SB673: State Procurement - Small and Minority Business Reserve Program (Parren J. Mitchell MBE Prime Contracting Act)**

Favorable

Good Afternoon Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

For the record, my name is Senator Nick Charles. As you may know, I have been working for years in the House and now have the privilege to work in the Senate on behalf of improving our State's procurement system. SB673 is a cross-file of HB962, which will be heard in the Health and Government Operations Committee in the House. I urge a favorable report on this important piece of legislation that will help address historical disparities and barriers faced by minority-owned businesses and aid in moving our Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) toward renewed success.

It is serendipitous that this Bill will be heard during Black History Month, as it seeks to honor the remarkable legacy of Parren James Mitchell. In 1950, the Honorable Mitchell sued the University of Maryland for admission into their, then, segregated University and backed by the NAACP, won admission and was the first Black man to graduate from the school; however, that was just the first time he made history. He utilized his education and became the first African American elected to Congress from Maryland in 1971. Parren J. Mitchell was one of the founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus and immediately became an active Member, utilizing his voice and perspective. In his capacity as Chair of the Small Business Committee, Congressman Mitchell submitted an amendment to a \$4 billion piece of public works legislation, mandating state and local governments pursuing federal grants to allocate **10%** of the funds to retain minority-owned firms as both contractors and subcontractors.

Fast forward to 2024, and I respectfully ask you to consider- what better way to honor the legacy of Congressman Parren J. Mitchell than by passing this legislation? SB673 renames the Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program to be the Small and Minority Business Reserve Program, reflecting a commitment to promoting MBEs within the State procurement process. Additionally, and most notably, the Bill requires State agencies to set-aside **10%** of their procurements specifically for Certified MBEs and Veteran Owned Small Business Enterprises. It is a critical piece of legislation to increase the prime contracting procurement opportunities for MBEs and moves Maryland toward its 29% MBE Aspirational participation goal, *which the State has consistently failed to meet.*

I urge a favorable report. Thank you,

Senator Nick Charles

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Charles".