

BILL: Senate Bill 420 - State Procurement - Preferred Providers -
Removal of Maryland Correctional Enterprises

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

DATE: January 31, 2024

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 420 - State Procurement - Preferred Providers - Removal of Maryland Correctional Enterprises, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

The bill would remove Maryland Correctional Enterprises (MCE) as a preferred provider. A preferred provider is defined as a provider of supplies or services that is given preference in specified areas of State procurement law and where a State or State-aided or -controlled entity must buy supplies and services from MCE first, then Blind Industries and Services of Maryland, and last from the Employment Works Program. As a preferred provider, MCE currently provides a variety of items, including: office furniture, seating, business tables, storage, outdoor furniture, apparel, dormitory furniture, and graphics.

Should MCE's designation as a preferred provider be removed, items normally provided by MCE would need to be acquired by another procurement method, causing DGS a fiscal and operational impact. DGS would request a modified effective date to July 1, 2025 or October 1, 2025 in order to identify, procure and implement the necessary statewide contracts that could be used by multiple state agencies.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at Ellen.Robertson@maryland.gov or 410-260-2908 or Lisa Nissley at Lisa.Nissley1@maryland.gov or 410-260-2922.