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**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND**

February 15, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **House Bill 928; Washington County-Procurement-Vehicles**

Dear Delegate Korman:

By a vote of 5-0, the Board of County Commissioners of Washington County unanimously supports House Bill 928. The purpose of HB 928 is to authorize the County Commissioners of Washington County or any employee of Washington County to enter into contracts for the purchase of vehicles without advertising the bids if the amounts involved do not exceed \$100,000.

Under the current law, the County Commissioners of Washington County or any employee of the county may not enter into a contract for the sale or purchase of any work, project, or expenditure where the amount in the contract exceeds \$50,000 without first advertising for bids at least one week before the bid by publication. This \$50,000 limit has become problematic in the specific context of vehicle acquisitions. The increase in vehicle prices due to inflation, coupled with inventory shortages, have resulted in challenges to the County in procuring vehicles. The requirement for solicitation of bids allows private individuals to acquire desired vehicles in short supply before the county can complete its procurement process.

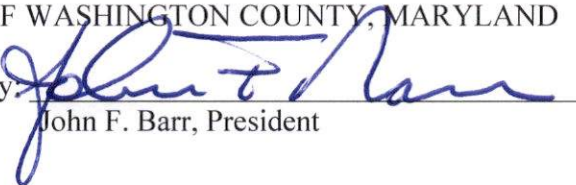
House Bill 928 remedies this problem by allowing, only in the specific context of vehicle procurements, for the County Commissioners of Washington County or any county employee to proceed with purchasing vehicles without first advertising for bids if the amount involved in the contract does not exceed \$100,000.

For these reasons, the Board of County Commissioners urges the Committee to approve HB 928.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND

By:



John F. Barr, President

cc (via email): Delegate William J. Wivell, Chair  
Washington County Delegation

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