



Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor | Atif Chaudhry, Secretary

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Chair, House Health & Government Operations Committee

Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 276, State Government - Forms - Reporting Requirement - Repeal

Chair Peña-Melnyk and Committee Members:

The Department of General Services (DGS) requests your support for House Bill 276, a departmental bill proposed by DGS to eliminate an outdated requirement for each State agency, division, and independent unit to prepare and deliver an annual report to DGS on its activities related to the management of its forms.

The requirement for DGS to submit a comprehensive forms report to the General Assembly was repealed in 2023, but the requirement for agencies to submit their individual forms reports to DGS was not eliminated. House Bill 276 will simply remove the reporting requirement for individual agencies and units to report to DGS in conformity with the repeal of the law governing the statewide reporting by DGS.

House Bill 276 is consistent with the goal of streamlining, efficiency, and the elimination of redundant or unnecessary reporting requirements. This legislation will remove the obligation of numerous state agencies to report to DGS annually on forms management, thereby eliminating the mandated investment of staff time across all State agencies in producing reports, and any related investments of DGS staff time in managing the receipt of these reports.

In 2023, this committee passed legislation enacted to repeal numerous provisions of law that required State agencies to submit reports to the General Assembly that are deemed obsolete, duplicative, impractical, inefficient, or otherwise unnecessary (HB 124/SB 131, Chs. 47/48, 2023). The 2023 legislation followed work undertaken in the 2022 interim to prepare a report to the General Assembly on specified activities, services, and trends. During the 2022 interim, the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) conducted a review of the mandated reports in State law to identify requirements that have become obsolete, duplicative, impractical, inefficient, or otherwise unnecessary. The 2023 legislation was a direct result of that effort. Unfortunately, the bill enacted in 2023 left intact the requirement that State agencies complete and forward to DGS their forms management reports.

DGS notes that this bill, as introduced, includes an effective day of October 1, 2025, which would have the unintended consequence of requiring yet another year of forms management reports. Therefore, the department requests an amendment to change the effective date to July 1, 2025.

For these reasons, DGS requests a favorable report on House Bill 276, with the amendment to adjust the bill's effective date.

Contact: John R. Woolums, Esq., Director of Government and Legislative Affairs, (410) 260-2908 (O), (667) 434-0008 (M), john.woolums@maryland.gov.