



TESTIMONY

SB0828 – State Finance – Delinquent Federal Funds (Federal Obligations Enforcement Act)

Bill Sponsor: Senator Hester

Committee: Budget and Tax

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Co-Chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of **SB0828** on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district across the state—representing and supporting more than 30,000 Marylanders.

Frankly, the federal landscape has become unpredictable to the point of dysfunction. Though I wish this bill could go further to address the madness at the federal level—the chronic delays, the politicization of routine funding, and the administrative obstacles that undermine state planning, though SB0828 is a necessary start.

Maryland relies on timely reimbursements to operate essential programs—healthcare, transportation, public safety, and emergency response. When those funds are delayed or withheld, the State is forced to absorb costs that were never intended to fall on Maryland taxpayers. SB0828 helps shield Maryland from that instability by giving the State a structured, enforceable process to recover what it is owed.

The bill asserts Maryland’s right to enforce existing obligations and provides a practical means for doing so. The bill authorizes the Central Collection Unit to pursue delinquent federal obligations, establishes procedures for placing liens on federal property located in Maryland, and permits the Comptroller to withhold payments to the federal government when appropriate. These tools strengthen Maryland’s ability to protect its fiscal stability and ensure that federal commitments are honored.

Voters deserve to know that their representatives are taking proactive steps to safeguard Maryland’s financial stability and maintain the continuity of essential services. For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on SB0828.