



House Bill 1230 -- Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Procurement - Alterations PG/MC 102-26
House Environment and Transportation Committee
March 13, 2026
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 1230 -- *Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission - Procurement - Alterations PG/MC 102-26*.

House Bill 1230 repeals the name of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Office of Supplier Diversity, authorizes the Commission to name the Office, and alters the purpose and duties of the Office. The bill establishes that the purpose of the Office is to: (1) administer each of the business participation and vendor development programs for commission contracts and subcontracts; and (2) monitoring compliance with participation requirements for the programs established. The bill further requires the Office to promote, encourage, and support increased business participation and economic outcomes in Commission contracts and subcontracts.

The Chamber supports WSSC Water's inclusive and forward-thinking approach to expanding procurement opportunities for local, small, veteran-owned, and disabled veteran-owned businesses. This legislation acknowledges the diverse range of enterprises that serve the utility across local, state, and regional levels and aims to eliminate barriers that disproportionately impact smaller firms. Many local and small businesses face contracting challenges that larger firms do not, particularly the complex administrative processes required simply to register as a vendor. By streamlining these processes, the bill helps ensure that qualified businesses can reach the starting line and meaningfully compete for procurement opportunities.

House Bill 1230 further modernizes the procurement framework by removing duplicative steps, recognizing certifications from other public agencies, and adopting a self-certification process that supports business growth. It strengthens the broader economic ecosystem by keeping customer dollars circulating within local communities and aligning with state priorities, including support for veteran-owned and disabled veteran-owned businesses. With WSSC Water planning to invest \$4.8 billion through its 2026 capital program, it is essential that local businesses are well positioned to participate in this major economic opportunity. This legislation provides the pathway to ensure that participation becomes both possible and more equitable.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 1230 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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