

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 831 (Senator Conwav. *et al.*)

Economic and Environmental Affairs

**Task Force to Study Minority Business Enterprise and Women's Business
Enterprise Policies and Procedures**

This bill establishes a 13-member Task Force to Study Minority Business Enterprise and Women's Business Enterprise Policies and Procedures.

The bill is effective July 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for task force members and staffing costs for the Board of Public Works (BPW) or the certification agency are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: BPW is required to provide staff support for the task force within existing budgeted resources to the extent possible. BPW may designate that staff support be provided by the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification agency, which is the Maryland Department of Transportation's (MDOT) MBE Office.

The bill provides for the specific responsibilities of the task force, including studying the State's MBE program and the feasibility of creating separate MBE and Women's Business

Enterprise programs. Members of the task force may not receive compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations. The task force is required to issue a final report of findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2000.

The bill sunsets after December 31, 2002.

Current Law: Except for real property leases, each unit of State government is required to structure its procurement procedures to try to achieve at least 14% direct or indirect MBE participation under Maryland's MBE participation program. For construction contracts, the goal is 14% of the unit's total dollar value. The goal applies only to contracts exceeding \$100,000 for MDOT. To qualify for participation in the procurement program, an MBE must be at least 51% owned by a socially or economically disadvantaged group and be certified by the MBE Office. Socially or economically disadvantaged groups include African Americans, American Indians, Asians, Hispanics, women, and physically or mentally disabled individuals.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Board of Public Works, Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 7, 2000
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