

Chapter 258

(Senate Bill 689)

AN ACT concerning

Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Duties of the Special Secretary – Minority Business Enterprises

FOR the purpose of expanding the duties of the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to include establishing a certain mentorship program, conducting a certain study, providing certain training and educational opportunities, and establishing a certain annual awards program related to minority business enterprise participation in State procurement; and generally relating to the duties of the Special Secretary of the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–301(a), (d), and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–305
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

9–301.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (d) “Office” means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.
- (e) “Special Secretary” means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

9–305.

- (a) This section applies to the following minority business enterprises:

(1) a publicly owned business if 1 or more minority persons own at least 51% of the stock of the business; or

(2) any other business if 1 or more minority persons own at least 50% of the business.

(b) Subject to the limitations of any law that governs the activities of other units of the Executive Branch of the State government, the Special Secretary shall:

(1) carry out each State or federal program that is created to promote the growth of or participation in minority business enterprises;

(2) promote and coordinate training regarding the requirements of the Minority Business Enterprise Program;

(3) promote, coordinate, and participate in the plans, programs, and operations of the State government that promote or otherwise affect the establishment, preservation, and strengthening of minority business enterprises;

(4) promote activities and the use of the resources of the State government, local governments, and private entities for the growth of minority business enterprises;

(5) coordinate the effort of private entities and public agencies to develop minority business enterprises;

(6) establish a system to develop, collect, summarize, and give out information that would help a person to:

(i) establish a minority business enterprise;

(ii) operate a minority business enterprise successfully; or

(iii) promote the establishment and successful operation of minority business enterprises; [and]

(7) ESTABLISH A MENTORING PROGRAM:

(I) IN WHICH LARGER AND MORE ESTABLISHED MINORITY BUSINESSES CAN MENTOR START-UP AND SMALL MINORITY BUSINESSES; AND

(II) THAT INCENTIVIZES MENTOR PARTICIPATION BY PROVIDING BENEFITS TO MENTORS, INCLUDING:

1. SPECIAL RECOGNITION ON THE OFFICE WEBSITE, AND IN THE OFFICE NEWSLETTER AND PARTICIPATION UPDATES;

2. A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION AWARDED BY THE OFFICE;

3. THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT HIGHLIGHTS OF MENTOR AND PROTEGE RELATIONSHIPS AT AN ANNUAL APPRECIATION EVENT SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE; AND

4. INCREASED NETWORKING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES;

(8) CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR CREATING A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN THE OFFICE THAT PROVIDES ONE-ON-ONE ASSISTANCE TO MINORITY BUSINESSES IN SUBMITTING COMPETITIVE AND SUCCESSFUL BIDS AND PROPOSALS FOR PROCUREMENT CONTRACTS;

(9) PROVIDE TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NONMINORITY PRIME CONTRACTORS REGARDING THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A PRIME CONTRACTOR WITH RESPECT TO MINORITY BUSINESSES; AND

[(7)] (10) subject to the limitations of law and the availability of funds:

(i) provide technical and managerial assistance to minority business enterprises;

(ii) provide the managerial and organizational framework for private entities and units of the State government to plan and carry out joint undertakings that relate to minority business enterprises; [and]

(iii) pay, wholly or partly, the costs of a pilot or demonstration project that is intended to overcome the special problems of minority business enterprises; AND

(IV) ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE LOCALITIES THAT DEMONSTRATE THE HIGHEST EXCELLENCE IN MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE SUPPORT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.