

HOUSE BILL 826

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CF 5lr0408

By: **Chair, Health and Government Operations Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs)**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority,**
3 **and Women Business Affairs – Repeal**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small,
5 Minority, and Women Business Affairs within the Office of Small, Minority, and
6 Women Business Affairs; and generally relating to the Interdepartmental Advisory
7 Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – State Government
10 Section 9–301
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article – State Government
15 Section 9–303.1
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – State Government**

21 9–301.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) ["Interdepartmental Committee" means the Interdepartmental Advisory
2 Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

3 (c)] (1) "Minority person" means:

4 (i) an individual who has been deprived of the opportunity to
5 develop and keep a competitive position in the economy because of a social or economic
6 disadvantage that arises from cultural, racial, or other similar causes; or

7 (ii) a sheltered workshop for individuals with disabilities.

8 (2) "Minority person" includes:

9 (i) an Aleut;

10 (ii) an American Indian;

11 (iii) a Black;

12 (iv) an Eskimo;

13 (v) a Hispanic;

14 (vi) an Oriental;

15 (vii) a Puerto Rican; or

16 (viii) a woman.

17 [(d)] (C) "Office" means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business
18 Affairs.

19 [(e)] (D) "Special Secretary" means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small,
20 Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

21 [9-303.1.

22 (a) There is an Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and
23 Women Business Affairs.

24 (b) The Interdepartmental Committee is composed of:

25 (1) the secretary of each principal department of the Executive Branch of
26 government, or the secretary's designee;

27 (2) the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent's designee;

1 (3) the Secretary of Higher Education, or the Secretary’s designee; and

2 (4) the Special Secretary.

3 (c) The Interdepartmental Committee shall:

4 (1) advise the Special Secretary on proposals to implement and enhance
5 the duties of the Office, including the promotion of employment of minority persons in the
6 State, and the promotion of the growth and participation of minority business enterprises
7 in the State;

8 (2) gather such information the Committee deems necessary to promote
9 the goals of the Office;

10 (3) provide such other assistance as may be required to further the
11 purposes of §§ 9–304 and 9–305 of this subtitle; and

12 (4) meet at the call of the Special Secretary.]

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2025.