

# HOUSE BILL 826

P1

51r0407  
CF 51r0408

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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

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~State Government – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on~~ Office of Small,  
3 Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee  
4 – Repeal and Definitions

5 FOR the purpose of repealing the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small,  
6 Minority, and Women Business Affairs within the Office of Small, Minority, and  
7 Women Business Affairs; altering the definition of “minority person” for the purpose  
8 of certain provisions of law governing the Office; and generally relating to the  
9 ~~Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on~~ Office of Small, Minority, and Women  
10 Business Affairs.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – State Government  
13 Section 9–301  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing  
17 Article – State Government  
18 Section 9–303.1  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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.

(b) [“Interdepartmental Committee” means the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

(c) (1) “Minority person” means:

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

(ii) ~~a sheltered workshop for individuals with disabilities~~ **A NONPROFIT ENTITY WHICH IS INCORPORATED IN THE STATE OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED TO DO BUSINESS IN THE STATE, HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TO BE EXEMPT FROM TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(3), (4), OR (6) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AND IS ORGANIZED TO PROMOTE THE INTERESTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

(2) “Minority person” includes:

(i) an Aleut;

(ii) an American Indian;

(iii) a Black;

(iv) an Eskimo;

(v) a Hispanic;

(vi) an Oriental;

(vii) a Puerto Rican; or

(viii) a woman.

[(d)] (C) “Office” means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

1            [(e) (D)        “Special Secretary” means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small,  
2    Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

3    [9–303.1.

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

6            (b)        The Interdepartmental Committee is composed of:

7                    (1)        the secretary of each principal department of the Executive Branch of  
8    government, or the secretary’s designee;

9                    (2)        the State Superintendent of Schools, or the Superintendent’s designee;

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

11                  (4)        the Special Secretary.

12            (c)        The Interdepartmental Committee shall:

13                    (1)        advise the Special Secretary on proposals to implement and enhance  
14    the duties of the Office, including the promotion of employment of minority persons in the  
15    State, and the promotion of the growth and participation of minority business enterprises  
16    in the State;

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

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

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

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