## **HOUSE BILL 1432**

C8, P2 5lr2523

By: Delegate Wilson

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Appropriations

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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## Minority Business Enterprises - Coordination of Resources

- 3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women
- 4 Business Affairs to coordinate with the Department of Commerce and the Office of
- 5 the Comptroller to promote certain benefits and incentives; requiring the Governor's
- 6 Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to include a certain analysis
- 7 in a certain annual report for a certain number of years; and generally relating to
- 8 the coordination of resources to support minority business enterprises.
- 9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 10 Article State Government
- 11 Section 9–305
- 12 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 15 Article State Government
- 16 Section 9–306
- 17 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 21 Article State Government
- 22 9-305.
- 23 (a) This section applies to the following minority business enterprises:

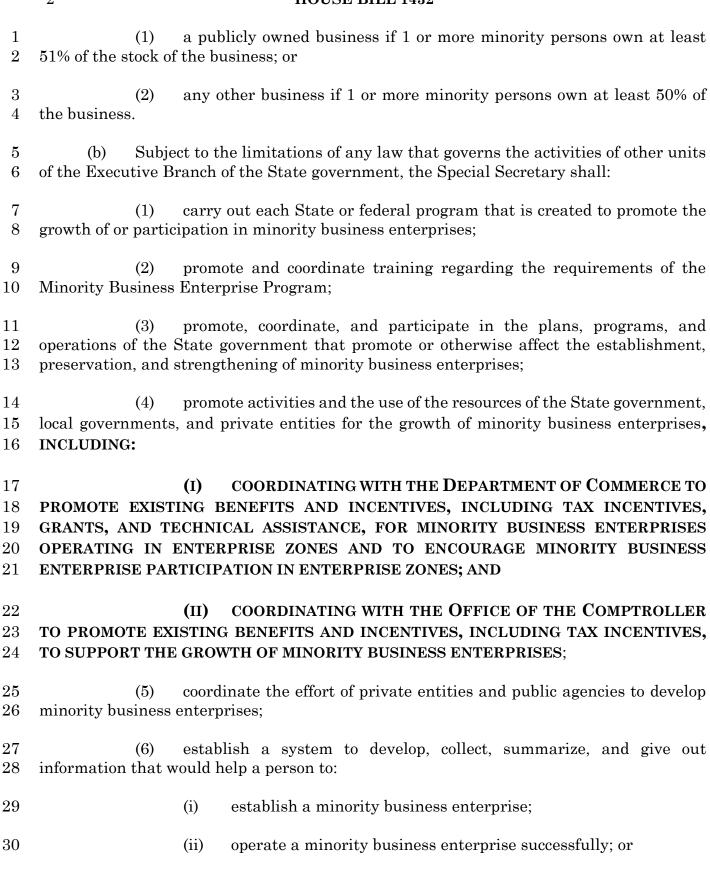


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(iii)

business enterprises;



promote the establishment and successful operation of minority

1	(7) establish a mentoring program:
2 3	(i) in which larger and more established minority businesses can mentor start—up and small minority businesses; and
4 5	(ii) that incentivizes mentor participation by providing benefits to mentors, including:
6 7	1. special recognition on the Office website, and in the Office newsletter and participation updates;
8	2. a certificate of participation awarded by the Office;
9 10	3. the opportunity to present highlights of mentor and protege relationships at an annual appreciation event sponsored by the Office; and
11	4. increased networking and educational opportunities;
12 13 14	(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;
15 16 17	(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
18	(10) subject to the limitations of law and the availability of funds:
19 20	(i) provide technical and managerial assistance to minority business enterprises;
21 22 23	(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;
24 25	(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
26 27	(iv) establish an annual awards program to recognize localities that demonstrate the highest excellence in minority business enterprise support.
28	9–306.
29 30	(a) On or before the 15th day of each regular session of the General Assembly, the Special Secretary shall send an annual report on the Office of Small, Minority, and Women

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Business Affairs:

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- 1 (1) to the Governor; and
- 2 (2) subject to § 2–1257 of this article, to the General Assembly.
- 3 (b) The annual report may be prepared in conjunction with the report required 4 under § 14–305(b) of the State Finance and Procurement Article.
  - SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Department of Commerce and the Office of the Comptroller, shall include in the annual report submitted under § 9–306 of the State Government Article in 2026, 2027, and 2028 an analysis of the coordination efforts required under § 9–305(b)(4) of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, including the impact of these efforts on minority business enterprises in the State, and any recommended statutory changes to improve coordination efforts.
- SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.