

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

2 **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:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) a publicly owned business if 1 or more minority persons own at least
2 51% of the stock of the business; or

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

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

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

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

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

14 (4) promote activities and the use of the resources of the State government,
15 local governments, and private entities for the growth of minority business enterprises,
16 **INCLUDING:**

17 **(I) COORDINATING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO**
18 **PROMOTE EXISTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES, INCLUDING TAX INCENTIVES,**
19 **GRANTS, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**
20 **OPERATING IN ENTERPRISE ZONES AND TO ENCOURAGE MINORITY BUSINESS**
21 **ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION IN ENTERPRISE ZONES; AND**

22 **(II) COORDINATING WITH THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER**
23 **TO PROMOTE EXISTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES, INCLUDING TAX INCENTIVES,**
24 **TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES;**

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

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

29 (i) establish a minority business enterprise;

30 (ii) operate a minority business enterprise successfully; or

31 (iii) promote the establishment and successful operation of minority
32 business enterprises;

1 (7) establish a mentoring program:

2 (i) in which larger and more established minority businesses can
3 mentor start-up and small minority businesses; and

4 (ii) that incentivizes mentor participation by providing benefits to
5 mentors, including:

6 1. special recognition on the Office website, and in the Office
7 newsletter and participation updates;

8 2. a certificate of participation awarded by the Office;

9 3. the opportunity to present highlights of mentor and
10 protege relationships at an annual appreciation event sponsored by the Office; and

11 4. increased networking and educational opportunities;

12 (8) conduct a feasibility study for creating a technical assistance program
13 in the Office that provides one-on-one assistance to minority businesses in submitting
14 competitive and successful bids and proposals for procurement contracts;

15 (9) provide training and educational opportunities for nonminority prime
16 contractors regarding the duties and responsibilities of a prime contractor with respect to
17 minority businesses; and

18 (10) subject to the limitations of law and the availability of funds:

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

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

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

26 (iv) establish an annual awards program to recognize localities that
27 demonstrate the highest excellence in minority business enterprise support.

28 9-306.

29 (a) On or before the 15th day of each regular session of the General Assembly, the
30 Special Secretary shall send an annual report on the Office of Small, Minority, and Women
31 Business Affairs:

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.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Governor’s Office of
6 Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Department of
7 Commerce and the Office of the Comptroller, shall include in the annual report submitted
8 under § 9–306 of the State Government Article in 2026, 2027, and 2028 an analysis of the
9 coordination efforts required under § 9–305(b)(4) of the State Government Article, as
10 enacted by Section 1 of this Act, including the impact of these efforts on minority business
11 enterprises in the State, and any recommended statutory changes to improve coordination
12 efforts.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.