

Chapter 619

(House Bill 826)

AN ACT concerning

~~State Government – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs –~~ **Repeal of Interdepartmental Advisory Committee – Repeal and Definitions and Establishment of the Governor’s Subcabinet on Socioeconomic Procurement Participation**

FOR the purpose of repealing the Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs within the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs; *establishing the Governor’s Subcabinet on Socioeconomic Procurement Participation to study and make recommendations on socioeconomic procurement in the State; requiring the Subcabinet to conduct certain meetings and report annually to the Governor* ~~altering the definition of “minority person” for the purpose of certain provisions of law governing the Office;~~ and generally relating to the ~~Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.~~

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

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

BY adding to
Article – State Government
Section 9–303.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 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.

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

(B) “GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S SUBCABINET ON SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PARTICIPATION.

~~(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** **A SHELTERED WORKSHOP FOR INDIVIDUALS 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.

~~†(e) (d)~~ “Special Secretary” means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

[9–303.1.

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

(b) The Interdepartmental Committee is composed of:

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

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

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

(4) the Special Secretary.

(c) The Interdepartmental Committee shall:

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

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

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

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

9–303.1.

(A) THERE IS A GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET ON SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PARTICIPATION.

(B) THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET IS COMPOSED OF:

(1) THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIR OF THE SUBCABINET;

(2) THE SECRETARY OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

- (3) THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (4) THE SECRETARY OF GENERAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (5) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (6) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (7) THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (8) THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (9) THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (10) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (11) THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;
 - (12) THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER FOR THE STATE, OR THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER'S DESIGNEE;
 - (13) THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE OMBUDSMAN, OR THE OMBUDSMAN'S DESIGNEE; AND
 - (14) ANY OTHER HEAD OF A DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY THAT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE GOVERNOR, AS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE GOVERNOR.
- (C) THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET SHALL:
- (1) MEET:

 - (I) A MINIMUM OF ONCE EACH QUARTER; AND
 - (II) AT A FREQUENCY DEEMED APPROPRIATE BY THE CHAIR;
 - (2) STUDY SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES TO IDENTIFY SUCCESSES AND BEST PRACTICES;

(3) DEVELOP ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR PROCUREMENT FORECASTS, STRATEGIC PLANS, PROCUREMENT REVIEW GROUP PROCESSES, AND LIAISON OFFICER ACCOUNTABILITY;

(4) WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF STATE PROCUREMENT TO IMPLEMENT PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS THAT DIRECTLY IMPACT SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT BUSINESSES' ABILITY TO FAIRLY COMPETE FOR AND UNDERSTAND STATE CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES;

(5) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REFORMS TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE STATE'S SOCIOECONOMIC PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS; AND

(6) RECOMMEND ACTIONS TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SMALL BUSINESS RESERVE PROGRAM, THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM, AND THE VETERAN SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

(D) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR ON THE GOVERNOR'S SUBCABINET'S ACTIVITIES, PROGRESS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2025.