

HOUSE BILL 1230

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By: **Prince George’s County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation**
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2026
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Procurement – Alterations**

3 **PG/MC 102–26**

4 FOR the purpose of repealing the name of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
5 Office of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion; authorizing the Commission to name the
6 Office; altering the purpose and duties of the Office; altering the local small business
7 enterprise program to include local or small businesses or certain other businesses;
8 authorizing the Commission to accept as a registered vendor any person that is
9 registered as a vendor with another jurisdiction or has self-certified as a vendor in
10 a certain manner; and generally relating to procurement by the Washington
11 Suburban Sanitary Commission.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Public Utilities
14 Section 20–201, 20–203, and 20–301 through 20–304
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Public Utilities
19 Section 20–401 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 4. Vendor Registration”
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Public Utilities**

25 20–201.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

2 (b) “Minority business enterprise” has the meaning stated in § 14–301 of the State
3 Finance and Procurement Article.

4 (c) “Office” means the Office [of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion] established
5 under § 20–203 of this subtitle.

6 20–203.

7 (a) There is an Office [of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion in the Commission]
8 **ESTABLISHED WITHIN THE COMMISSION THAT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:**

9 **(1) ADMINISTERING EACH OF THE BUSINESS PARTICIPATION AND**
10 **VENDOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS FOR COMMISSION CONTRACTS AND**
11 **SUBCONTRACTS; AND**

12 **(2) MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH PARTICIPATION**
13 **REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED.**

14 (b) The [head of the Office is the] **OFFICE SHALL BE HEADED BY A** Director [of
15 Supplier Diversity and Inclusion].

16 (c) **THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE A NAME FOR THE OFFICE**
17 **ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

18 **(D)** The Office shall:

19 (1) administer each Commission program that is created to remedy
20 discrimination against minority business enterprises and promote the participation of local
21 **OR small business enterprises OR OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES THAT SUPPORT THE**
22 **ECONOMIC OUTCOMES OF THE COMMISSION**, including:

23 (i) the minority business enterprise utilization program under §
24 20–204 of this subtitle; and

25 (ii) the [local small] business enterprise program **ESTABLISHED**
26 under Subtitle 3 of this title;

27 (2) promote and coordinate the plans, programs, and operations of the
28 Commission to remedy discrimination against minority business enterprises and the effects
29 of discrimination;

1 (3) promote activities and the use of the resources of the Commission, local
2 governments, and private entities to remedy discrimination against minority business
3 enterprises and the effects of discrimination; [and]

4 (4) ensure compliance with certified minority business enterprise
5 subcontract participation goals under § 20–206 of this subtitle; AND

6 (5) **PROMOTE, ENCOURAGE, AND SUPPORT INCREASED BUSINESS**
7 **PARTICIPATION AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES IN COMMISSION CONTRACTS AND**
8 **SUBCONTRACTS.**

9 20–301.

10 In this subtitle, “program” means a local, small, **OR OTHER** business enterprise
11 program.

12 20–302.

13 (a) By resolution or adopting regulations, the Commission may establish a local,
14 small, **OR OTHER** business enterprise program.

15 (b) The Office [of Supplier Diversity and Inclusion,] established under § 20–203
16 of this title[,] shall administer the program.

17 20–303.

18 The purpose of the program is to assist [small] **LOCAL** businesses in Montgomery
19 County and Prince George’s County, **SMALL BUSINESSES, OR OTHER BUSINESSES THAT**
20 **FURTHER THE COMMISSION’S CONTRACTING, SUBCONTRACTING, AND ECONOMIC**
21 **OBJECTIVES** by:

22 (1) establishing a sheltered market or other appropriate preference; or

23 (2) facilitating the award of Commission construction contracts or
24 procurement contracts for goods and services to [small]:

25 (I) **LOCAL** businesses in Montgomery County and Prince George’s
26 County;

27 (II) **SMALL BUSINESSES; OR**

28 (III) **OTHER BUSINESSES THAT FURTHER THE COMMISSION’S**
29 **CONTRACTING, SUBCONTRACTING, AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES.**

30 20–304.

- 1 (a) The Commission shall adopt:
- 2 (1) [eligibility criteria for businesses to qualify for the program, including:
- 3 (i) the criteria for a small business qualifying under the Small
4 Business Preference Program as established in regulations adopted by the Department of
5 General Services under § 14–203 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;
- 6 (ii) a requirement that:
- 7 1. the business’s principal place of business be in
8 Montgomery County or Prince George’s County; or
- 9 2. at least 25% of the total number of employees of the
10 business be domiciled in Montgomery County or Prince George’s County; and
- 11 (iii) any other] eligibility criteria that the Commission determines to
12 be necessary or appropriate for the promotion of [small] businesses in the Commission’s
13 service area, **SMALL BUSINESSES, OR OTHER BUSINESSES THAT FURTHER THE**
14 **COMMISSION’S CONTRACTING, SUBCONTRACTING, AND ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES;**
15 and
- 16 (2) administrative procedures for conducting the program.
- 17 (b) A business may qualify as a local **OR** small business enterprise under the
18 program without regard to the race, ethnicity, or gender of the participants in the business.
- 19 (c) The Commission shall establish criteria for graduation from the program for
20 a [local small] business that the Commission determines no longer requires the assistance
21 or benefits offered by the program.
- 22 (d) The Commission shall review the eligibility criteria and administrative
23 procedures of the program each year to assess their effectiveness in furthering the purposes
24 of the program.

25 **SUBTITLE 4. VENDOR REGISTRATION.**

26 **20–401.**

- 27 **(A) THE COMMISSION MAY ACCEPT AS A REGISTERED VENDOR FOR THE**
28 **COMMISSION ANY PERSON THAT:**
- 29 **(1) IS REGISTERED AS A VENDOR THROUGH A VENDOR REGISTRATION**
30 **PROCESS IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION; OR**

1 **(2) SELF-CERTIFIES AS A VENDOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
2 **REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION.**

3 **(B) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
4 **SECTION.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2026.