

SENATE BILL 859

P4, P1

6lr3597

By: **Senator Hettleman (By Request – Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee)**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Procurement and Personnel – Liquidated Damages Documentation**
3 **Requirements and State Fiscal Leadership Capacity**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring units of State government to provide certain documentation
5 to the Board of Public Works and the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee if the
6 unit decides not to pursue certain liquidated damages; authorizing the Secretary of
7 Budget and Management to ~~grant a certain exemption to the State pay plan under~~
8 ~~certain circumstances~~ set the pay scale for certain chief financial officer positions in
9 order to assist with recruitment and retention; requiring ~~certain appointing~~
10 ~~authorities to select~~ the Secretary to establish certain minimum qualifications for
11 chief financial officers that ~~meet~~ consider certain ~~requirements;~~ qualifications;
12 requiring the Department of Budget and Management to adopt certain regulations
13 on or before a certain date; requiring certain chief financial officers to provide to the
14 Office of the Comptroller certain financial information at the close of the fiscal year
15 for a certain report; requiring certain chief financial officers to provide the General
16 Accounting Division of the Office of the Comptroller with certain information and a
17 certain letter; and generally relating to liquidated damages documentation
18 requirements and the chief financial officers of units in the Executive Branch of State
19 government.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
21 Article – State Finance and Procurement
22 Section 11–101(a), (d), and (aa) and 15–113(a) and (d)
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 2 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 3 Section 15–113(e)
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 7 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
 8 Section 1–101(a) and (b)
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
 12 Article – State Personnel and Pensions
 13 Section 2–206 and 2–207
 14 Annotated Code of Maryland
 15 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

19 11–101.

20 (a) In this Division II the following words have the meanings indicated unless:

21 (1) the context clearly requires a different meaning; or

22 (2) a different definition is provided for a particular title or provision.

23 (d) “Board” means the Board of Public Works.

24 (aa) (1) “Unit” means an officer or other entity that is in the Executive Branch
 25 of the State government and is authorized by law to enter into a procurement contract.

26 (2) “Unit” does not include:

27 (i) a bistate, multistate, bicounty, or multicounty governmental
 28 agency; or

29 (ii) a special tax district, sanitary district, drainage district, soil
 30 conservation district, water supply district, or other political subdivision of the State.

31 15–113.

1 (a) In this section, “liquidated damages” means damages in an amount
 2 designated by the parties to a contract that the injured party is eligible to collect as
 3 compensation for a specific breach of the contract.

4 (d) A unit shall obtain the approval of the head of the unit if the unit decides not
 5 to include in a contract a liquidated damages clause specified under § 13–218(a)(4) of this
 6 article.

7 (e) [(1) This subsection applies only to procurements valued at \$5,000,000 or
 8 more.

9 [(2)] If a unit decides not to pursue liquidated damages when a specified
 10 breach associated with a liquidated damages provision has occurred, the unit shall:

11 [(i)] (1) obtain the approval of the decision by the head of the unit;
 12 [and]

13 [(ii)] (2) maintain documentation on the reason the unit decided
 14 not to pursue liquidated damages; AND

15 (3) PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO THE BOARD AND THE JOINT
 16 AUDIT AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE ON THE REASON THAT THE UNIT INTENDS
 17 NOT TO PURSUE LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.

18 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

19 1–101.

20 (a) In this Division I of this article the following words have the meanings
 21 indicated.

22 (b) “Appointing authority” means an individual or a unit of government that has
 23 the power to make appointments and terminate employment.

24 **2–206.**

25 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER” ~~INCLUDES~~ MEANS:

26 ~~(1) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR A~~
 27 ~~PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS OR LONGER; AND~~

28 ~~(2) A POSITION EQUIVALENT TO A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER~~

1 **(1) THE HIGHEST RANKING EXECUTIVE WHO, FOR A PERIOD OF AT**
 2 **LEAST 6 MONTHS, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING ALL FINANCIAL OPERATIONS,**
 3 **INCLUDING:**

4 **(I) BUDGETING;**

5 **(II) ACCOUNTING;**

6 **(III) PROCUREMENT;**

7 **(IV) GRANT MANAGEMENT;**

8 **(V) ESTABLISHING FISCAL POLICIES;**

9 **(VI) ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL**
 10 **REGULATIONS; AND**

11 **(VII) PROVIDING STRATEGIC FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TO**
 12 **AGENCY LEADERSHIP; OR**

13 **(2) A POSITION WITH EQUIVALENT DUTIES.**

14 **(B) (1) THIS EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
 15 **SUBSECTION, THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A UNIT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF**
 16 **STATE GOVERNMENT THAT:**

17 ~~**(1) (I) RECEIVES AT LEAST \$2,000,000,000**~~ **\$1,750,000,000**
 18 **ANNUALLY IN STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING; AND**

19 ~~**(2) (II) EMPLOYS A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.**~~

20 **(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF**
 21 **MARYLAND.**

22 **(C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, AT THE REQUEST**
 23 **OF AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY, THE SECRETARY MAY GRANT AN EXEMPTION TO**
 24 **THE STATE PAY PLAN TO ASSIST UNITS OF STATE GOVERNMENT IN THE**
 25 **RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS THE SECRETARY**
 26 **MAY SET THE PAY SCALE FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER POSITIONS IN ORDER TO**
 27 **ASSIST WITH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.**

28 **(D) AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL MAKE AN**
 29 **APPOINTMENT OF A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER WHO MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS**
 30 **QUALIFICATIONS IN SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.**

1 ~~(E) A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT~~
2 ~~SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL:~~

3 ~~(1) (I) BE A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT WITH 5 YEARS OF~~
4 ~~EXPERIENCE IN FISCAL MANAGEMENT IN THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SECTOR WITH A~~
5 ~~MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN A HIGH LEVEL MANAGEMENT POSITION;~~
6 ~~OR~~

7 ~~(II) POSSESS A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS~~
8 ~~ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE, OR A RELATED FIELD FROM AN ACCREDITED~~
9 ~~INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH 3 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN FISCAL~~
10 ~~MANAGEMENT IN THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SECTOR WITH A MINIMUM OF 2 YEARS OF~~
11 ~~EXPERIENCE IN A HIGH LEVEL MANAGEMENT POSITION; OR~~

12 ~~(2) HAVE A DOCUMENTED RECORD OF MANAGEMENT WITH AT LEAST~~
13 ~~10 YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN FISCAL MANAGEMENT IN THE PRIVATE OR PUBLIC~~
14 ~~SECTOR, WITH A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN A HIGH LEVEL~~
15 ~~MANAGEMENT POSITION.~~

16 ~~(F) (1) A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT~~
17 ~~SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER~~
18 ~~FOR THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT, REQUIRED UNDER §~~
19 ~~2-102 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, ALL NECESSARY~~
20 ~~ENTRIES OF THE UNIT'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION AT THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL~~
21 ~~YEAR.~~

22 ~~(2) THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER THAT REPORTS TO THE~~
23 ~~COMPTROLLER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:~~

24 ~~(I) ENSURE THAT EACH ENTRY IN THE UNIT'S FINANCIAL~~
25 ~~INFORMATION IS ADEQUATE AND ACCURATELY RECORDED; AND~~

26 ~~(II) CERTIFY TO THE COMPTROLLER THE ADEQUACY AND~~
27 ~~ACCURACY OF THE FINANCIAL INFORMATION WITH A STATEMENT THAT:~~

28 ~~1. ALL FEDERAL FUND RECEIVABLES ARE PROPERLY~~
29 ~~SUPPORTED AND CAN BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A SPECIFIC FEDERAL~~
30 ~~FUNDING STREAM; AND~~

31 ~~2. THE STATE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT TO RECEIVE~~
32 ~~FUNDS WITHIN 60 DAYS FOR THE SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR UNLESS SPECIFIC~~
33 ~~FEDERAL LANGUAGE ALLOWS FOR A LONGER RECOVERY PERIOD.~~

~~(3) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE TO THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING DIVISION OF THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER:~~

~~(I) THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO PREPARE THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT AND SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS; AND~~

~~(II) A LETTER ATTESTING TO THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.~~

(E) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER POSITIONS THAT CONSIDER:

(I) EDUCATION;

(II) EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE AND THE DURATION OF THAT EXPERIENCE;

(III) SUPERVISORY OR MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE;

(IV) TECHNICAL COMPETENCE;

(V) CERTIFICATIONS;

(VI) SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE ROLE; AND

(VII) ALIGNMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OR INDUSTRY STANDARDS.

(2) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER POSITIONS.

(F) FOR PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT REQUIRED UNDER § 2-102 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE, A CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF A UNIT OF STATE GOVERNMENT SUBJECT TO THIS SECTION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER AT THE CLOSE OF THE FISCAL YEAR:

(1) ALL NECESSARY ENTRIES OF THE UNIT'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION;

1 **(2) THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO PREPARE THE SCHEDULE OF**
2 **EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL**
3 **LAWS AND REGULATIONS; AND**

4 **(3) A LETTER ATTESTING TO THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF**
5 **THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ITEMS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

6 **2-207.**

7 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER” MEANS:**

8 **(1) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING AS THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER**
9 **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLANNING, MANAGEMENT, AND OVERSIGHT OF**
10 **AN AGENCY’S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS AND**
11 **SUPPORTING ITS MISSION AND GOALS, INCLUDING THROUGH:**

12 **(i) PROCUREMENT;**

13 **(ii) COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS;**

14 **AND**

15 **(iii) PROVIDING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY LEADERSHIP TO**
16 **AGENCY LEADERSHIP; OR**

17 **(2) A POSITION WITH EQUIVALENT DUTIES.**

18 **(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
19 **SUBSECTION, THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A UNIT OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF**
20 **STATE GOVERNMENT THAT EMPLOYS A CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.**

21 **(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF**
22 **MARYLAND.**

23 **(C) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE SECRETARY**
24 **MAY SET THE PAY SCALE FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER POSITIONS IN ORDER**
25 **TO ASSIST WITH RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION.**

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2026.