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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

BILL: House Bill 991 - Procurement - Transparency and Application to County Contracts

COMMITTEE: House Health and Government Operations

DATE: March 3, 2020

POSITION: Letter of Information

House Bill 991 – Procurement – Transparency and Application to County Contracts seeks to apply State procurement law to any county government entity that enters into a procurement contract that uses State funds or is for the benefit of the State. The bill would require:

- Assigning of a staff member from the Governor’s Office for Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) to each State and county procurement unit. The staff member would observe procurement processes and ensure that minority business enterprise (MBE) goals are being met;
- A County government engaging in procurement contracts using State funds or for the benefit of the State using both Invitations for Bids (IFB) and Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide additional information and instructions for bid protests and debriefings:
 - Fulfilling a debriefing request within five (5) days; and
 - Post bid award notices within fifteen (15) days rather than the current thirty (30) days for awards greater than \$50,000.

In conclusion, many of the changes proposed in House Bill 991 will impose the formation of additional processes that will increase contract turn-around time without adding significant value to the state or the bidders.

House Bill 1021 of 2017 (Chapter 590) provided for the reform of State procurement and the creation of the Procurement Improvement Council (PIC). The purpose of the PIC is to ensure that the State is addressing various procurement policies and procedures related to State procurement and to advise the General Assembly on proposed legislation in order to enhance the efficiency and transparency of State procurement. This bill appears to circumvent this process.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.

