

*The Maryland House of Delegates*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 251**  
**MD Funding Accountability and Transparency Act - Nonbudgeted State Agencies**  
**Before the Appropriations Committee**  
**January 20, 2021**

House Bill 251 would result in better disclosure of vendor spending by state agencies.

In 2008, the General Assembly enacted the Maryland Funding Accountability and Transparency Act. That law requires the Department of Budget and Management to publish a public web page containing a searchable database of spending by state agencies for expenditures of at least \$25,000.

The database has served its purpose for over 10 years, but House Bill 251 makes 2 needed improvements:

- 1) Missing agencies** - HB251 would add spending from "non-budgeted" agencies such as MDTA (Maryland Transportation Authority) that are currently not included.
- 2) Delayed data** - DBM/DOIT's current practice is to update the database by January 1st of each year with data from the previous fiscal year. This means that the data is at least 6 months old and can be up to 30 months old. HB251 would require monthly updates so that the data would be no more than 45 days old.

HB251 is identical to HB71 of 2020 which passed the House. I ask for your favorable report.