



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 59 - State Procurement - Small Business Reserve Program

SPONSOR: Senator Patterson

HEARING DATE: February 3, 2021

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 59**, which would raise the goal for the Small Business Reserve (SBR) Program from 15% to 25% of the value of agency procurements and for specified SBR procurements, requires agencies to apply a 5% price preference for "resident small businesses."

Small businesses are critical to job and wealth creation in both Prince George's County and across Maryland. Many of our County's small businesses are also minority owned and we are proud that despite challenges, they are becoming emerging firms seeking growth here in our State. The purpose of the SBR Program is to ensure that our small business community can leverage public procurement dollars to grow, create jobs, and add contribution to our State's thriving economy.

The SBR Program ensures that small businesses can more fairly compete for state procurement dollars by reserving a portion of procurement opportunities for small business bidding only. **Senate Bill 59** would increase this program to 25% of State Procurement and create a 5% preference for small businesses based in Maryland.

The combined effect of these policies would be great for Maryland's small businesses and will lead to more of our State's procurement dollars staying and circulating here in the State, and will make meaningful strides in supporting some of the hardest hit small businesses.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 59** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.