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OFFICE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & ENERGY

BILL: Senate Bill 645 – 9-1-1 Board – Procurement Reform

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 17, 2021

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 645, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments.

Responsibility of tasks defined in Senate Bill 645 are contingent upon enactment of 2021 Senate Bill 658, which transfers the Maryland 9–1–1 Board and its functions, powers, duties, assets, liabilities, and records from the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MEMA).

Successful passage of Senate Bill 658 will require, as addressed in Senate Bill 645, a procurement officer from the MEMA to review contracts over \$500,000 awarded by counties for reimbursement by the 9-1-1 Board and to certify that the contracts were awarded through a transparent and competitive process. The review also would assess each county’s progress towards meeting the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Small Business Reserve (SBR) and Veteran-owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) participation goals.

The MEMA Procurement Officer would make a recommendation to the 9-1-1 Board, within 60 days after a contract is submitted for certification, whether the request for reimbursement should be approved or disapproved.

Should passage of Senate Bill 658 not occur, the Department of General Services Office of State Procurement would take responsibility for the tasks defined above, as addressed in Senate Bill 645.

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

