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OFFICE OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & ENERGY

BILL: **Senate Bill 564** - Consolidation of the Procurement Improvement Council and the Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs

DATE: February 17, 2021

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of Senate Bill 564, the Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments.

The purpose of Senate Bill 564 is to create greater efficiencies and streamline the duties of several agency members that overlap between two councils, the Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) and the Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services (CPHESS). The bill aims to combine the two councils thus creating greater cooperation between the State, local government, and the public and to work together to improve procurement processes and reduce duplicative efforts by council members.

The PIC is statutorily responsible for making recommendations for legislative and regulatory changes whereas the CPHESS does not enjoy that responsibility and would have to request the PIC for assistance with any recommendations for change it wanted to pursue. The CPHESS has worked for a number of years to fulfill its duties and reported that it concurred with the efforts to combine the councils.

Going forward, any outstanding efforts from the CPHESS will be addressed by the PIC or the newly formed Maryland Efficient Grant Application (MEGA) Council, charged with making recommendations for efficiencies and best practices to the State's grant processes and to assist grant-using agencies and grant recipients.

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

