

NICK CHARLES  
Legislative District 25  
Prince George's County

Health and Government  
Operations Committee

Subcommittees

Health Occupations and  
Long Term Care

Insurance and Pharmaceuticals



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 206  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3707 · 301-858-3707  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3707  
Nick.Charles@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Favorable Testimony**

HB0137 – State Finance and Procurement - Procurement Improvement Council - Duties and Report on eMaryland Marketplace

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, I am pleased and grateful for the opportunity to testify *in support* of House Bill: 0137. The purpose of this Bill is to require that the Procurement Improvement Council provide a forum to discuss the use and access to opportunities regarding eMaryland Marketplace. The Council would be required to report any recommendations on compliance and enforcement relating to procurement to committees within the General Assembly (MGA) by December 31, 2022. This bill is important because it would provide needed oversight for the Procurement Improvement Council. The Health and Government Operations recognized this importance and passed this legislation last year, but due to consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was unable to see a vote in the Maryland Senate. This Bill has not changed since last year and its necessitation is still seen. Over the past few years, steps have been taken in order to modernize the procurement process within the State of Maryland. In 2019, sweeping changes were made to the process, including the introduction of eMaryland Marketplace Advantage (eMMA). This resource is incredibly important to help establish Maryland as the best managed State. However, without proper oversight, Governmental agencies and municipalities could be limiting the amount of procurements they advertise through eMMA, without repercussions. When agencies limit the number of procurements they advertise, the State of Maryland loses a valuable resource: data. Additionally, minority and small businesses lose a valuable resource: an opportunity. Increased oversight of the Procurement Improvement Council would allow the MGA to analyze which agencies are continually “sole-sourcing” their contracts to non-minority or small businesses. With this evidence, the State can target agencies who continually use one business for all their contracts and step in to ensure equal and fair access to contracts for all businesses. This legislation would work to uplift small and minority businesses who are being left behind unknowingly. In order to improve the procurement process in the state of Maryland and better support our minority businesses, we encourage that you will move forward with a favorable report for House Bill: 0137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Charles".

Nick Charles  
Maryland State Delegate - District 25