

PAT YOUNG
Legislative District 44B
Baltimore County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

Chair

Oversight Subcommittee on Personnel

House Chair

Joint Committee on the
Management of Public Funds

Chair

Baltimore County Delegation

Vice Chair

Veterans Caucus



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 305
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3544 · 301-858-3544
800-492-7122 Ext. 3544
Pat.Young@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3rd, 2021

HB 790 – Procurement – Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Reserve Program and Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise Program

Honorable Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

I am happy to introduce House Bill HB 790 – Procurement – Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Reserve Program and Veteran–Owned Small Business Enterprise Program. This bill would repeal the statewide goal that at least 1% of the value of procurement contracts be made to veteran-owned small business enterprises (VSBEs) and would instead require the Special Secretary of the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) to adopt a statewide goal by regulation. The bill includes conforming changes, as well as various provisions to align management of the VSBE preference program with existing preference program management structures. Furthermore, it would establish an Advisory Committee on VSBEs within GOSBA that would work with GOSBA and members from the vendor community to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the program and make recommendations on improvement.

The passage of this bill would provide meaningful measures to improve the VSBE program. The VSBE program was designed to provide contracting opportunities on state funded procurements for qualified veteran-owned small businesses. Since its inception, however, state agencies and departments have struggled to meet the 1% goal mentioned above. This bill would reinvigorate the VSBE program by increasing business participation, agency oversight, and the regulations necessary to run a successful program. Moreover, while this bill may seem largely procedural and administrative, it would result in State agencies giving greater attention to meeting the State’s VSBE participation goal. This would create a positive impact on VSBEs, by allowing for increased opportunities to participate in State procurement.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 790 and I urge a favorable report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Young".

Pat Young, 44B