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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  
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## Favorable Testimony

HB0871: Consolidation of the Procurement Improvement Council and the Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services

Chairwoman Shane E. Pendergrass and honorable members of the Health and Government Operations Committee, thank you for taking the time to listen to the introduction of HB0871: Consolidation of the Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) and the Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services. I urge that a favorable report be adopted for this Bill, as it merges two Councils whose functions almost mirror each other. The Maryland General Assembly has an obligation to all Marylanders to create and maintain *the most supportive* procurement system possible. When businesses have access to the best opportunities, we see positive repercussions throughout the State.

Currently, the PIC is tasked with ensuring that the State's procurement system uses the most advanced procurement methods and providing a forum for the discussion of specific procurement issues and problems that arise. Similarly, the Council for the Procurement of Health, Educational, and Social Services functions for the same reasons, except as it was created by *Chapters 212 and 213 of 2012*. This was based on the recommendations put forth by the Task Force to Study the Procurement of Health, Education, and Social Services by State Agencies. The Council's primary purpose is to advise the Board of Public Works (BPW) on specific steps necessary to implement the task force's recommendations. These recommendations include providing a forum for communicating with State agencies on procurement problems and issues, as well as improved procurement management and methods. In addition, the Council reviews existing procurement regulations to ensure that they fulfill the intent and purpose of the law and effectively use State funds. As such, these Councils function for such similar purposes that maintaining them as two separate entities no longer makes sense.

By consolidating these Councils, the Maryland General Assembly could have all issues and resources related to procurement oversight by one organizational body. This oversight can be much more streamlined and direct if there is only one Council Board to communicate with, rather than two. Furthermore, data pertaining to procurement could be much easily acquired from one Council, rather than having to communicate with both Councils to receive up-to-date and factual information. Additionally, HB0871 expands PIC's authority to include providing a forum for the discussion of the use of eMaryland Marketplace (eMM) and compliance with a requirement that State and local entities publish notices of procurements or notices of procurement awards on eMM. This forum 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, through better supervision of eMM.

For these reasons, I urge for a favorable report to be issued for HB0871. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Charles".

