



Carrington & Associates, LLC

"Continuing A Tradition of Excellence"

**SB 649 Procurement – Department of General Services – MBE Program
Compliance Officer - SUPPORT**

Carrington & Associates, LLC SUPPORTS SB649. This bill requires the Secretary of General Services, in consultation with the Chief Procurement Officer in the Department of General Services, to appoint an MBE Program Compliance Officer in the Office of State Procurement to ensure compliance by certain procurement units with the participation goals of the State Minority Business Enterprise Program. It also requires the Officer to submit reports to the Board of Public Works and the Legislative Policy Committee of the General Assembly on or before September 1 each year that gives a detailed summary of the reasons for granting waivers of MBE goals, a detailed comparison of the MBE participation goals set by a unit for procurement contracts and the actual participation of MBE's and any other information that the Board may require.

This bill addresses a need that many of our MBE clients have complained about for years; a point person to ensure that units of state government are following the letter and the spirit of the MBE Program. While the goals of the Program are laudable, they cannot be purely aspirational. This legislation will help the state in ensuring that it has reliable data to determine if remedial measures are necessary to assist the state in reaching its MBE participation goals. We thank the Senate President Pro Tem Melony Griffith for this forward-thinking bill that addresses a long-standing issue in the MBE Program procurement process with units of state government.

For these reasons, Carrington & Associates, LLC enthusiastically supports SB649 and asks for your FAVORABLE report.