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Budget and Taxation Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Melony G. Griffith in Support of Senate Bill 487
Procurement – Minority Business Enterprises - Revisions
House Health and Government Operations Committee
Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Madam Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Pena-Melnyk, and members of the House Health and Government Operations Committee:

I am pleased to present Senate Bill 487, cross-file to House Bill 389 which passed in this committee with amendments unanimously. The bill also unanimously passed the Senate with amendments.

This bill will:

- Implement the statutory recommendations of the Department of Legislative Services' Evaluation of the Minority Business Enterprises Program.
- Establish the position of MBE Ombudsman within the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.
- Expand accountability and transparency requirements for the program.
- Codify an existing set-aside program for small businesses.
- Applies prompt payment to subcontractor requirements to all subcontractors.

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 487, I respectfully request a favorable report.