



Larry Hogan
Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor
James F. Ports, Jr.
Secretary

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass
Chair, House Health and Government Operations Committee
241 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: *Letter of Support – Senate Bill 192 – State Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program – Reauthorization Extension*

Dear Chair Pendergrass and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 192, as it would allow for the continuation of the State’s Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program.

As the Certifying Agency of the State’s MBE Program, and in accordance with Senate Bill 4, Chapter 340, Acts of 2017, MDOT has initiated a Statewide availability and utilization study (Study) so as to deliver a final report on the Study to the Legislative Policy Committee (the Committee) of the General Assembly. Due to the complexities of the procurement for a consultant to complete the Study and unforeseen delays in the process, the report on the Study was not completed by September 30, 2021. Given the scope of the Study, it is anticipated that the report will be completed and delivered by September 2023 as indicated in Senate Bill 192. In addition to the extension of the due date for the report on the Study, Senate Bill 192 includes a concurrent extension of the MBE Program’s sunset date so the Program can continue.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 192 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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