



GOVERNOR'S COORDINATING OFFICES

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES • SERVICE & VOLUNTEERISM • PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT
CRIME CONTROL & PREVENTION • SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS
CHILDREN • DEAF & HARD OF HEARING

DATE: March 23, 2022
COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations
BILL TITLE: SB192
POSITION: Support

The Governor's Office of Small Minority & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) is in support of ***SB192 State Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program – Reauthorization Extension***

Bill Summary

To comply with the requirements of Chapter 340 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2017, this bill provides for an extension to the due date for the statewide Disparity Study and concurrently, an extension to the sunset date for Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program.

Background

Maryland's MBE statute currently provides that the program will terminate on July 1, 2022. Reauthorization of the MBE program requires the State to establish that there are substantial and statistically significant disparities that are consistent with discrimination against minorities and nonminority women in State procurement. The findings of the Disparity Study thereby serve as the evidentiary basis for either the continuation or termination of the MBE program. Given that the current Disparity Study is delayed, and completion/review is not anticipated until September 2023, continued operation of the MBE Program requires an extension through July 1, 2024.

The extension of the Sunset date for the MBE program will ensure that the State continues to facilitate the participation of small and minority-owned businesses in State procurement and, therefore, benefits them economically.

GOSBA respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 192.