

DELEGATE DARRYL BARNES  
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Prince George's County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Chair, Local Revenues

Revenues

Racing and Gaming

*Chair*

Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Delegate Darryl Barnes  
February 15, 2022

**HB 325 – State Procurement – Payment Practices**

Good afternoon Chair Pendergrass and members of the Health and Government Operation Committee. HB 325, as amended, will shorten the timeframe within State agencies to make payments under procurement contracts from 30 days to 15 days.

During the pandemic, small businesses took a big hit and we are still in recovery mode. This bill protects and supports the financial interests of small businesses so they can thrive in Maryland. This is particularly of more significance to small businesses who may not have a large line of credit and depend on timely payment for invoices.

This bill will offer that opportunity to streamline and expedite the invoice payments to small businesses, our neighboring jurisdictions are able to pay within 15 days. This is merely a proactive step in helping to meet the needs of our small businesses and to assist them in building positive relationships with the State of Maryland.

It is our aim to continue to do what we can to support the financial stability of small businesses that need help during these unprecedented times. Passing this legislation would allow the business community to be compensated for state projects they complete in a timely manner. This bill would improve the integrity of contract relationships across the State of Maryland and supports the financial interests of our small business community.

For this reason, I respectfully ask your **Favorable** report on HB 325.

Respectfully yours,

*Darryl Barnes*

Delegate Darryl Barnes, Chairman  
MD Legislative Black Caucus