

ANTONIO HAYES
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Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 578:
Small Business Protection Act of Maryland

March 1, 2023

Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Senate Bill 578 seeks to require units to publish an annual forecast on known and anticipated procurements to be made by them in the upcoming fiscal year. This would include an estimate for the anticipated minority business enterprise participation goals for each procurement. It would also require a unit to determine eligibility for a merit increase or promotion. It would consider the efforts of a procurement officer in assisting the unit in meeting a minority business enterprise goal.

This bill would also require the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to consult with procurement units to identify potential contracting opportunities for small businesses and assist them with complying with procurement procedures as they bid for a contract.

I urge you to vote favorably on SB578.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD