



House Bill 543 -- *State Procurement - Small Procurement - Definition*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 30, 2023
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 543 -- *State Procurement - Small Procurement - Definition*. House Bill 543 doubles the maximum dollar value threshold for smaller procurements from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

MCCC supports expanding procurement opportunities, as House Bill 543 proposes, for Maryland's small, minority-owned, and women-owned businesses. The Metro Maryland region is home to a large and growing population of small and entrepreneurial government contractors, including many who are working military veterans. Expanding procurement opportunities has been a longtime MCCC priority, most notably through efforts of the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation's (MCCCF) Veterans Institute for Procurement (VIP) program.

The VIP program is the first free training program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Maryland Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. Veteran-Owned company "C-level" executives receive 27 hours of comprehensive instruction on how to accelerate their federal government contracting business skills. Over three days, subject matter experts from industry and government provide best business practice strategies and instruction. Most of the executives who graduate from the VIP program are retired military veterans who reside in Maryland.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber supports House Bill 543 and requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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