

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 514 – County Procurement – Minority  
Business Enterprises Utilization Programs - Certification***

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 514 but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

The MDOT's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) is responsible for certifying firms for participation in the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), as well as the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) programs.

Senate Bill 514 requires all counties that operate minority business enterprise programs with an accompanying certification process to accept the State's certification. Should counties continue to accept and encourage their own certification applications, in addition to the State's certification process, Senate Bill 514 will have minimal impact on MDOT; however, if counties decide to default to requiring applicants to obtain MBE certification through MDOT, the volume of applications submitted to MDOT will increase. MDOT would require additional resources to process the possible increase in the number of certification applications.

In 2021, MDOT received 969 applications, and that increased to 1,400 in 2022. Currently, there are approximately 7,800 MBE firms listed in the directory.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 514.

Respectfully submitted,

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