



The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain

House Bill 543
State Procurement - Small Procurement - Definition

Position: Support
Committee: Budget & Taxation
Date: March 30, 2023
From: Gabrielle Leach

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE or the Department) **SUPPORTS** House Bill 543. This bill would raise the dollar threshold of small procurements to \$100,000 and alters other values for construction, medical evaluations, and capital projects.

MDE would benefit from the increased dollar value to \$100,000 for small procurements. With inflation and supply chain issues, the cost of many projects has increased significantly. As such, procurements that previously would have been considered small and thus handled by the agency must be reviewed by the Office of State Procurement at the Department of General Services (DGS). The process would be streamlined, and contracts would be able to be awarded under the Department's delegated authority. This would enable MDE to award such contracts quickly and efficiently. The Department's projects which at times may be defined as an imminent danger to citizens, however, do not meet the COMAR definition of an emergency, will be able to be addressed more rapidly.

The increased construction value will allow DGS to award construction contracts more efficiently as well. This will assist MDE in the endeavors that are undertaken for our mining division with respect to environmental hazards for abandoned mines. Projects may more timely benefit the citizens of Maryland who reside or travel to those affected areas.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for HB543.