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MAJORITY LEADER

Appropriations Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Oversight Committee on Personnel

Chair, Transportation and the
Environment



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB 377—Village of Friendship Heights Special Taxing District—Procurement
Testimony of Delegate Marc Korman: Favorable

Thank you Madam Chair, Madam Vice Chair and members of the Health and Government Operations Committee. I come before you on behalf of the Montgomery County Delegation to present HB 377, legislation which makes several changes to the Village of Friendship Heights's charter to give the village more flexibility in the procurement process, in line with other neighboring municipalities.

The bill makes the following changes:

1. Changes the threshold for competitive bidding from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for the Village of Friendship Heights. The threshold has not been updated in approximately 30 years, so due to inflation alone it is out of date. Most of the neighboring municipalities (the Chevy Chases, Somerset, Glen Echo) have a threshold higher than \$5,000. The town of Chevy Chase, with 1,500 fewer people, has a \$25,000 threshold.
2. Allows emergency procurements in excess of \$20,000 without competitive bidding. The competitive bidding requirement made it difficult for Friendship Heights to promptly procure materials that were urgently needed during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several neighboring municipalities have similar emergency procurement exceptions.

I am pleased to report that the legislation received unanimous support from the Montgomery County House Delegation. I urge you to support HB 377 to modernize Friendship Heights's procurement process so that the village can better serve its residents. I urge a favorable report.