

Testimony in Support of HB429 - Procurement Improvement Council – Membership
Health and Government Operations Committee – March 1, 2023

I want to thank Delegate Charles for sponsoring this important legislation to allow for the expansion of the Procurement Improvement Council. I am grateful for your leadership, and I look forward to working in partnership to improve the procurement process in the state to ensure it is fair and equitable for all.

What the bill does

HB429 simply alters the membership of the Procurement Improvement Council to add the Comptroller.

Why the bill is important

The Procurement Improvement Council (PIC) was created in 2017 to ensure that the State is addressing procurement policies and procedures, and to advise the General Assembly and the Board of Public Works on potential legislation that would enhance the efficiency and transparency of State procurement. The PIC meets quarterly with stakeholders to hear their concerns about State procurement and to inform their advice to the General Assembly and the Board of Public Works.

The Comptroller is the figure tasked with providing procurement resources to Maryland's businesses and has an important seat on the Board of Public Works. And yet, the Comptroller is not currently a member of the Procurement Improvement Council.

Why you should vote for this bill

Streamlining the state procurement system will ensure that businesses want to do business with the State, and the Comptroller has the power to make changes to achieve that goal. Giving the Comptroller the opportunity to hear from stakeholders and work through their challenges with a team of procurement experts would allow for the timely development of better procurement policies. **I urge a favorable report on HB429.**



Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland

