



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Russell J. Strickland | Secretary

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS - HB1077
Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Climate Change
Coordinator – Establishment
Maryland Department of Emergency Management
Hearing Date: 6 MAR 2024

Chairman C.T. Wilson
Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chairman Wilson,

The Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) writes **in support with amendments for HB1077 - Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Climate Change Coordinator – Establishment.**

Climate change and the natural hazard impacts associated with it pose a challenge to Marylanders. As the home of the Maryland Office of Resilience, MDEM supports the development of capacity and capability within each executive branch to integrate resilience efforts into their mission. We support this bill as it will provide dedicated assistance to small, minority, and women-owned businesses in addressing the unique challenges of climate change faced by these businesses, and it will provide support to businesses interested in developing services in the climate change and resilience sector.

Amendment requested: Include coordination with the Office of Resilience (recommended changes attached)

Justification: The Office of Resilience was established in statute in 2022 and funded in FY24. One of the roles identified in statute for the Office is “to coordinate across State and local agencies to prepare and implement resilience strategies”; an additional role includes “working with business leaders from industries vulnerable to the risks to identify best practices for preparing for and responding to risks” ([PS S14-1202](#)). To avoid duplication of effort or redundancy, we recommend the activities



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of the climate change coordinator be coordinated with the Office of Resilience. This will ensure streamlined State efforts in the years to come.

We have spoken with Delegate Ruth and the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs who were amenable to our amendments. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to work with us on these efforts.

In conclusion, MDEM urges a favorable report of HB1077 - Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Climate Change Coordinator – Establishment inclusive of our recommended amendments

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Sierra, MDEM legislative liaison:
anna.sierra1@maryland.gov.

HOUSE BILL 1077

P1, M3

4lr3294

By: **Delegates Ruth, Allen, and Terrasa**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Small Business Climate**
3 **Change Coordinator – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator in the
5 Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs in the Executive Department;
6 and generally relating to the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article – State Government

9 Section 9–301(a), (d), and (e)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 9–303.4

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 9–301.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (d) “Office” means the Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 (e) "Special Secretary" means the Special Secretary for the Office of Small,
2 Minority, and Women Business Affairs.

3 **9-303.4.**

4 **(A) THERE IS A SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR IN THE**
5 **OFFICE.**

6 **(B) THE SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR IN**
7 **CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, SHALL**
8 **SUPPORT THE STATE'S SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS**
9 **COMMUNITY ON MATTERS RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, INCLUDING:**

9 **(1) PREVENTING AND MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE**
10 **CHANGE, INCLUDING:**

11 **(I) FLOODING;**

12 **(II) EXTREME HEAT;**

13 **(III) STORM DAMAGE; AND**

14 **(IV) SALTWATER INTRUSION AFFECTING AGRICULTURE;**

15 **(2) TRANSITIONING TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY; AND**

16 **(3) PARTICIPATING IN NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY**
17 **THE TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY.**

18 **(C) THE SMALL BUSINESS CLIMATE CHANGE COORDINATOR, IN**
19 **CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF RESILIENCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT**
20 **OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MAY:**

19 **(1) CONDUCT SURVEYS, FOCUS GROUPS, OR ANY OTHER RESEARCH**
20 **TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND**
21 **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE;**

22 **(2) COORDINATE WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES ABOUT THE NEEDS**
23 **OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES RELATING TO CLIMATE**
24 **CHANGE;**

25 **(3) DEVELOP INFORMATION RESOURCES FOR SMALL, MINORITY, AND**
26 **WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES ON:**

27 **(I) FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM**

28 **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**
1 **AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES TO ASSIST WITH PREVENTING AND**
2 **MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE;**

3 **(II) FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM**
4 **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**
5 **AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOURCES TO ASSIST WITH TRANSITIONING AN**
6 **EXISTING BUSINESS TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY, INCLUDING ELECTRIC**
7 **VEHICLES, ELECTRIC VEHICLE SUPPLY EQUIPMENT, CLEAN POWER GENERATION,**
8 **AND CLEAN ENERGY HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING;**

9 **(III) BEST PRACTICES FOR PREVENTING AND MITIGATING THE**
10 **IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE;**

11 **(IV) NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY THE**
12 **TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY; AND**

13 **(V) COMPLYING WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS,**
14 **REGULATIONS, AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO A TRANSITION TO ADVANCED**
15 **CLEAN ENERGY; AND**

16 **(4) DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION RESOURCES ELECTRONICALLY OR IN**
17 **PRINT DIRECTLY TO SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN—OWNED BUSINESSES OR**
18 **THROUGH ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, SMALL BUSINESS CENTERS,**
19 **OR ANY OTHER MEANS OF REACHING SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN—OWNED**
20 **BUSINESSES.**

21 **(D) ON REQUEST, THE COORDINATOR SHALL ADVISE THE GOVERNOR, THE**
22 **SPECIAL SECRETARY, AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO**
23 **THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON SMALL BUSINESSES AND THE EFFECT OF A**
24 **TRANSITION TO ADVANCED CLEAN ENERGY ON SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE STATE.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a Position Identification
26 Number (PIN) shall be created in the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women
27 Business Affairs for the Small Business Climate Change Coordinator established under §
28 9-303.4 of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

29 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
30 October 1, 2024.