



STATE OF MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**Wes Moore**

*February 22, 2024*

The Honorable Brian Feldman  
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

***RE: Letter of Support – SB0472 – State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)***

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Distinguished Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

On behalf of Governor Moore and Lieutenant Governor Miller, I respectfully ask the Committee for a favorable report on Senate Bill 472 - State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024).

The first year of the Moore-Miller Administration has been an economic success story for Maryland. We were proud to announce the creation of more than 40,000 new jobs. We've had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation for five months in a row. We secured significant federal investments as we announced the reconstruction of the Frederick Douglass Tunnel in Baltimore and the selection of Greenbelt as the new home of the FBI.

However, over the past decade, Maryland's economic growth has underperformed the country, and that has affected the lives and livelihoods of those who call this great state home. In order to win the decade, we need to commit to making Maryland more economically competitive. And one of the best ways to do that is to make our state government's interactions with businesses more efficient, predictable, and convenient.

The unpredictability of Maryland's licensing and permitting processes is a source of frustration for developers, businesses, and employees and prevents businesses from

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investing in the state. Maryland is not unique to this situation. States across the country and political spectrum have taken significant steps to address this issue.

The Transparent Government Act is crucial to enhancing Maryland's economic competitiveness. By creating reliability and predictability for the permitting process, the bill aims to cease interactions between state government and business and provide employers with the ability to better plan business development and growth. This legislation requires principal government agencies and independent units in the state government to create and publish a catalog of permits, licenses, and certificates it issues, in addition to processing timelines and regulatory requirements.

This legislation also creates the Government Efficiency Commission, which is tasked with monitoring and reviewing the efficiency of processing permits, licenses, and certificates. The commission is also responsible for making recommendations about overcoming burdensome requirements and making recommendations about creating reliability in these processes.

The administration requests eight (8) technical amendments on the following page that aim to streamline the process for agencies and units responsible for compiling the annual reports and expanding the Government Efficiency Commission to include the Secretary of DoIT or the Secretary's designee and the Special Secretary of Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs or the Secretary's designee.

With these provisions and amendments combined, the Transparent Government Act aims to provide much-needed regulatory reliability to businesses that want to start up or expand here in Maryland.

I respectfully ask the committee for a favorable with amendments report on Senate Bill 472 and look forward to working with the committee and other stakeholders in partnership on potential amendments to the bill.

Sincerely,

Saif Ratul  
Deputy Legislative Officer

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AMENDMENT TO SB 472

On page 2, in line 6, strike “SEPTMBER” and substitute “OCTOBER”; in line 28, strike “REVIEW AN APPLICATION FOR INITIAL COMPLETION” and substitute “DETERMINE IF AN APPLICATION IS COMPLETE”.

On page 3, strike beginning with “FOR” in line 1 down through “APPLICATION” in line 2 and substitute “TO ISSUE, WAIVE, OR DENY THE PERMIT, LICENSE, OR CERTIFICATE”; in line 16, strike “AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER,”; strike beginning with “A” in line 17 down through “OF” in line 18 and substitute “AN INTERIM DESCRIPTION, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, OF”; after line 22, insert:

\_\_\_\_\_ “(E) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH DEPARTMENT AND INDEPENDENT UNIT SHALL POST ON ITS WEBSITE A COMPLETED UPDATE OF THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION APPLICABLE TO THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.”.

On page 4, strike beginning with “THE” in line 17 down through “DESIGNEE” in line 18 and substitute “THE SPECIAL SECRETARY OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, OR THE SPECIAL SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE”; in line 25, after (11) insert “THE SECRETARY OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, OR THE SECRETARY’S DESIGNEE;

(12)”;

in line 26, strike “(12)” and substitute “(13)”;

and in the same line, strike “TWO” and substitute “THREE”.