

RJR-(System Automation) SB472.HB581 Letter (SUPPOR

Uploaded by: Charles Rubin

Position: FAV



Senator Brian Feldman, Chair
Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice-Chair
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 2 West
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: *Senate Bill 472/House Bill 581: State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024) – SUPPORT*

February 22, 2024

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

As President of System Automation, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you and the committee for considering this important piece of legislation. I write this letter in full support of Governor Moore's initiative, the *Transparent Government Act of 2024 (Senate Bill 472 House Bill 581: State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing)*.

As written, SB472/HB581 would establish the Government Efficiency Commission. The commission will be tasked to make recommendations on improving departmental/agency processes and removing unnecessary barriers that stifle Maryland businesses and citizens from receiving permits, licenses, and certificates. The purpose of creating this new commission will improve government efficiency and the State's economic competitiveness by monitoring the processing of permits, licenses, and certificates.

System Automation is a Maryland-based IT company that has been operating in in the State since 1968. Our company has national experience in regulation management solutions, that have served over five hundred (500) agencies and provided nearly 20 million professional licenses across the country. We have successfully assisted other states in enhancing internal government proficiency and customer experience. More importantly, through our collaboration with various state governments, nationally, we have helped modernize their licensing and management systems with budgetary prudence.

As a Maryland-based business, we are proud of the collaboration and partnerships that we have cultivated over the last three decades. Presently, System Automation is also a vendor for the Maryland Department of Labor, the Maryland State Police (MSP), and a few of the MDH's Professional Boards and Commissions.

In recent years, System Automation has had gainful opportunities to share our unique licensing and IT perspectives with the Maryland General Assembly, the Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, IT, and Biotech, and the Moore Administration to improve the embattled Board of Nursing. Similarly, if enacted, this commission will have the ability to examine *every* departmental process and make

strategic and collaborative recommendations to improve State efficiencies and provide a better customer experience for Maryland's businesses, citizens, and working professionals.

It is for these reasons that we strongly support the enactment of SB472/HB581 and urge this committee to give this legislation a FAVORABLE report.

Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Charles Rubin, *President*
System Automation

SB0472_FAV_MTC_St. Gov't. - Permits, Lic., & Certs

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FAV



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
The Honorable Senate President Bill Ferguson (Administration)

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 22, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 472 – *State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a community of nearly 800 Maryland member companies that span the full range of the technology sector. Our vision is to propel Maryland to become the number one innovation economy for life sciences and technology in the nation. We bring our members together and build Maryland's innovation economy through advocacy, networking, and education. We are writing today in **support** of Senate Bill 472.

This bill seeks to bring transparency and clarification around the process of applying for and obtaining permits, licenses, and certificates from the State. The bill also requires that each department in the State publish the time it will take to process each application type. Our members welcome the steps the Administration is taking to improve these processes. It can be difficult for companies, particularly smaller companies, to navigate the State bureaucracy when seeking permits or other approvals. Creating clear expectations on process and timelines will be very beneficial for these companies. Making Maryland an easier place for businesses to innovate and thrive is core to the MTC's mission, and this legislation is aligned with that goal.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

SB0472_DNR_SUP_EEE_2-22-24.pdf

Uploaded by: Dylan Behler

Position: FAV



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 22, 2024

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 472 - First Reader

SHORT TITLE: State Government - Permit, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT'S POSITION

The Department supports the proposed legislation to provide necessary transparency and reliability around differing permits and licenses that the Department offers. From hunters to boaters to aquaculturists, this legislation will be an important tool for the Agency to continue and expand our efforts to provide meaningful and efficient service to those seeking differing permits or licenses from the Department. The Department also supports the creation of the Government Efficiency Commission in the Office of the Governor – and we look forward to having the opportunity to partner with said Commission to develop strategies to increase efficiency in the Department as well as the ability for the Department to contribute to the State's economic competitiveness.

This legislation also goes hand-in-hand with the development and upcoming launch of our updated licensing system in the Fall of 2024 to provide an easier and more efficient experience to those purchasing licenses from the Department.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Natural Resources issues permits or licenses for a variety of different purposes. These range from hunting licenses or stamps; boating certificates of number; fishing licenses or stamps; licenses for tree experts, to name a few. Most of these licenses are a part of our online processing system which are processed and issued at the point of sale.

BILL EXPLANATION

Senate Bill 472 requires the catalog and analysis of all differing permits, licenses, and certificates that the Department issues. The legislation also then requires the Department to share information on our website about said permits, licenses, and certificates along with the time required to process each application. Additionally, this bill also creates the Government Efficiency Commission to monitor and enhance government efficiency and economic competitiveness.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)

SB 472_Commerce_Transparent Government Act_Support

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: February 22, 2024
BILL NO: Senate Bill 472
BILL TITLE: State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 472 – State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024).

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 472 requires that each principal department and independent unit of State government which issues permits, licenses, and certificates create a catalog of permits, licenses, and certificates it issues. The catalog must include information such as the length of time the permit, license and certificate is valid, the application process for each, and the length of time to review and make a determination regarding the application, among other things. The legislation also creates the Government Efficiency Commission, to be staffed by the Governor’s Office, which is tasked with monitoring efficiency in the processing of permits, licenses and certificates.

Background:

Under current law, various departments and independent units of State government have the statutory or regulatory authority to issue licenses, permits or certificates, but there are no requirements for those agencies and units to publish information publicly about processing times to issue these items.

Rationale:

Senate Bill 472 will improve predictability for individuals and businesses seeking to build or grow businesses in Maryland. This legislation creates a catalog of required permits, licenses and certificates that are publicly available and includes projected timelines for licensing and permitting applications - and if those established timelines are being met. Having access to this valuable information will help entrepreneurs better plan their business growth. Commerce often hears from business owners and consultants that a barrier to locating or expanding in Maryland is the unpredictability associated with obtaining necessary permits and licenses. Requiring agencies to make information about these processes and timelines publicly available will eliminate that unpredictability, and Senate Bill 472 goes further by creating the Government Efficiency Commission which will work to improve efficiencies in these processes and ultimately reduce the amount of time businesses have to spend working through permitting and licensing in order to be able to open or expand their business here in Maryland.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 472.

SB0472_FAV_Greater Washington BoardofTrade.pdf

Uploaded by: Kyle McColgan

Position: FAV



GREATER WASHINGTON
Board of Trade

SB0472– Transparent Government Act of 2024
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Position: **Favorable**
Greater Washington Board of Trade
February 21, 2024

Dear Chairman Feldman Committee Members,

The Greater Washington Board of trade is a pro-business and non-partisan organization supporting all industry sectors in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia, having done so for the last 134 years. We support SB0472.

Permitting, licensing, and certification, while vital to the protection of the public can represent a major stumbling block or chokepoint slowing the process of individuals' efforts to do business in the state. This legislation takes the first steps toward streamlining these, often onerous and long winded, processes, allowing those wishing to do business, providing employment and tax revenue to do so, without undue hinderance.

Especially as neighboring jurisdictions are undertaking to similarly streamline licensing and credentialing processes, the work of a potential Government Efficiency Commission is vital to keeping Maryland competitive both within the region and nationally. Allowing residents to get to get to work creating jobs and providing critical services, especially with regard to healthcare workers and tradespeople, has substantial upside potential for retaining highly trained and skilled workers within the region in the face of problematic outmigration to competitor regions and cities across the nation.

We are further heartened to see the inclusion of representatives of Maryland's vibrant business community on the commission and hope that this will stand to further collaboration between the public and private sector, allowing expertise and know how from all interested parties to be brought to bear on these much needed improvements to vital regulatory processes. Please support SB0472.

Dept of Environment Testimony

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: FAV



**The Maryland Department of the Environment
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***Senate Bill 472
Transparent Government Act of 2024***

Position: Support

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Date: February 22, 2024

From: Les Knapp

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 472. SB 472 would reinforce the work already underway within MDE under the leadership of the Moore-Miller Administration and Secretary McIlwain. MDE has been diligent over the past year to ensure all permitting processes are consistent, transparent, and timely. The Bill would further expand on Secretary McIlwain's top priorities of being customer-friendly by streamlining our current catalog of permits, establishing timelines, and engaging stakeholders in our processes.

Bill Summary

SB 472 would establish the Government Efficiency Commission to monitor processing of permits, licenses, and certificates (collectively "Permit(s)") statewide and to recommend changes to improve efficiency in these processes. The objective of the Bill is to improve economic competitiveness, by identifying and mitigating barriers to obtaining necessary Permits. To facilitate the activities of the new Commission, the Bill requires that every agency or governmental unit produce a report providing the Commission with detailed information on its Permit processes, and post information on publicly accessible websites.

Position Rationale

Overall, MDE's mission is simple: To protect and restore the environment for the health and well-being of all Marylanders. With this mission, MDE also recognizes the need to be customer service oriented by ensuring that our permitting processes are timely, constituent, and transparent. SB 472 will ensure that MDE is accountable for the timeframes established through this legislation and will demonstrate our commitment to Maryland's economy.

For the reasons detailed above, MDE urges a **FAVORABLE** report for SB 472.

Contact: Les Knapp, Government Relations Director
Cell: 410-453-2611, Email: les.knapp@maryland.gov

MBIA Letter of Support SB472.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FAV

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
House Office Building, Room 251,
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: SB 472 - State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Dear Chairman Feldman:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **SB 472 Transparent Government Act of 2024**. MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version. The proposal would require certain departments and independent units to create a certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department or independent unit and submit the catalog to the governor's office.

Maryland currently faces a housing shortage of approximately 96,000 housing units. If nothing changes, that number will increase by 5600 units per year. The National Association of Homebuilders reports that the estimated rent of a Maryland Housing Units is more than 30% of household incomes state wide with 25% of people spending more than 50% of their income on housing. In order to address this problem, we need a concerted effort to make housing available, and affordable to needed housing units. More than 50% of residents of the state of Maryland report that lack of housing availability is a major problem. According to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland is the 8th least affordable state in the United States. In addition, regulations imposed by all levels of government account for 23.8% of the price of a house.

This bill would allow for an evaluation of permits and other licenses that Builders need to obtain in order to build housing and evaluate the nature of these items and what may be duplicative and unnecessary. For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee

SB 472_MDCC_Transparent Government Act of 2024_FAV

Uploaded by: Mary Kane

Position: FAV



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

Senate Bill 472

State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Thursday, February 22, 2024

Dear Chairman Feldman and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,800 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 472 requires certain departments and independent units to create a certain catalog of information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates issued by the department and submit the catalog to the Governor. It also requires departments to post certain information relating to permits, licenses, and certificates on their website. Lastly, the legislation establishes the Government Efficiency Commission.

As a member of the Maryland Economic Council (MEC), the Chamber actively participates in discussions aimed at implementing policies that achieve economic growth. The Council's interim report explains that Maryland consistently ranks at the bottom of the list when it comes to business friendliness and regulatory environments. SB 472 would improve predictability for businesses that are looking to invest in Maryland. Streamlined and efficient permit review processes not only reduce delays in project implementation but also aids in cost projection planning for businesses. Delays in obtaining permits can incur additional expenses including extended construction periods, project management costs, and increased financing.

Businesses have concerns over the lengthy permitting and licensing processes currently in place. We believe that SB 472 is an important first step in addressing and streamlining the state's permitting review process, helping businesses stay competitive by bringing products and services to the market quicker. When businesses experience a predictable and smooth permitting or licensing process, they are more likely to invest in new projects and expand existing operations, ultimately leading to job creation and economic growth.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on SB 472.

SB 472 - CBF - FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Stegman

Position: FAV



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION

*Environmental Protection and Restoration
Environmental Education*

Senate Bill 472

State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing
(Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Date: February 22, 2024

To: Education, Energy & The Environment Committee

Position: **Favorable**

From: Matt Stegman
Maryland Staff Attorney

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) **SUPPORTS** SB 472, The Transparent Government Act of 2024. The legislation directs most departments of State government to create an inventory of and report to the Governor information about the various permitting programs the department administers, including recommendations on how to improve the efficiency of the permitting process. The bill further creates a standing Government Efficiency Commission to report annually on how to make Maryland's permitting processes more transparent and efficient.

CBF knows first hand how challenging it can be for some members of regulated communities to navigate Maryland's permitting processes. For example, CBF works with many individual and small farms to complete their required nutrient management plans and has helped communities navigate the permitting process to install living shoreline projects. A transparent and user-friendly permitting process can also aid in rigorous enforcement. When agencies have to spend less of their regulatory capacity correcting honest mistakes they have more bandwidth to investigate serious violations.

For the reasons stated above, **CBF urges the Committee's FAVORABLE report on SB 472.**

For more information, please contact Matt Stegman, Maryland Staff Attorney, at mstegman@cbf.org.

Maryland Office • Philip Merrill Environmental Center • 6 Herndon Avenue • Annapolis • Maryland • 21403

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization dedicated to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay. With over 200,000 members and e-subscribers, including 71,000 in Maryland alone, CBF works to educate the public and to protect the interest of the Chesapeake and its resources.

SB0472 - TSO - Transparent Govt Act_SUPP_FINAL.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FAV



Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary

February 22, 2024

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

Re: Letter of Support – Senate Bill 472 – State Government – Permits, Licenses, and Certificates – Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports Senate Bill 472 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 472 proposes to improve predictability for entities that want to invest in the State. MDOT is always seeking ways to be a better partner to those that we conduct business with and partner with on our projects and initiatives. By creating a catalog of MDOT’s licenses and permits that we issue, as well as identifying processing timelines, we will create a transparent working environment for businesses that want to participate and pursue opportunities with MDOT.

Additionally, MDOT looks forward to working with the Government Efficiency Commission to identify inefficiencies and chart a path forward to make our State more inclusive and reliable for those that want to partner and grow their business in the State.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant Senate Bill 472 a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090

The Transparent Government Act (SB 472) - Support.

Uploaded by: Walter Donoughe

Position: FAV

**Testimony in Favor of The Transparent Government Act (SB 472)
Before the Senate Education, Energy, and Environment Committee
On behalf of the Maryland Economic Council (MEC)
February 22, 2024**

Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee, we testify today in support of Senate Bill 472, The Transparent Government Act, **which takes a crucial first step in streamlining Maryland’s regulatory process so business can grow and thrive.**

Governor Moore established The Maryland Economic Council (MEC) last year to provide analysis and recommendations for implementing economic policies that achieve growth, diversify our workforce, and merge our state’s assets and growing industries. Our mission includes identifying and tracking underlying economic factors that impact Maryland’s business climate, evaluating Maryland’s regulatory environment and economic policies compared to competing states, analyzing Maryland’s economic strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and reviewing current economic policies through an equitable lens to ensure fairness and help eliminate the racial wealth gap.

Through our research, we identified Maryland’s disjointed and antiquated regulatory environment as one of the top hindrances to our state’s economic success. In our first set of recommendations¹ to the Governor, the MEC highlighted the need to streamline the State’s regulatory environment. Specifically, “Maryland consistently falls at the bottom of the list when it comes to business friendliness and regulatory environments. The average business ranking has our state’s regulatory environment at 47th in the nation. Our hostile business environment creates a meaningful drag on productivity, hampering the ability of Maryland entrepreneurs to bring their ideas to market in Maryland. It also weakens Maryland’s reputation, which dissuades businesses from locating here, and disproportionately harms small and economically disadvantaged businesses, by creating a business environment that requires significant resources and knowledge to navigate.”

This legislation is an important first step in addressing this critical challenge. By requiring state agencies to catalog and assess each regulation it administers, and by establishing and publicizing expectations for when licensing and permitting applications are to be returned, the Moore Administration is injecting accountability into Maryland government.

This catalog and data will be vital to achieving the Administration’s stated goal of streamlining Maryland’s regulatory processes, and will allow them to do so in a way that ensures businesses receive timely and clear guidance without eliminating necessary regulations.

¹ [MEC Recommendation 2 Regulatory Reform](#)

Regulatory reform is essential if Maryland is to foster a business-friendly environment, attract investment, enhance its reputation, and create a transparent and efficient regulatory framework, ultimately contributing to the state's economic success for all of our citizens. For these reasons, we support this legislation and respectfully urge a favorable report.

Final Testimony for SB472 - Transparent Government

Uploaded by: Saif Ratul

Position: FWA



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

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404
(410) 974-3400
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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

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404
(410) 974-3400
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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”.

2024 SB0472 Testimony against 2024-02-22.pdf

Uploaded by: Alan Lang

Position: UNF

Testimony Against SB0472

Please vote against SB0472.

After 40 years with the federal government as an auditor, it was my experience that forming a committee to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of an organization just made the existing process that much more ineffective and inefficient. Usually, those on the committee had no real idea how the departments worked and just added an additional layer of overhead for those trying to get things done.

The federal government has tried for the past 30 years to improve its operations by establishing performance measures for every department. The first attempt was the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (GPRA)

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-107/pdf/STATUTE-107-Pg285.pdf>

It did not achieve its goals so Congress passed the GPRA Modernization Act of 2010

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-111publ352/pdf/PLAW-111publ352.pdf>

For GPRA, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), oversaw the creation of metrics and established government-wide guidance to assist each department. Supposedly the key to success was to establish meaningful and, more importantly, measurable metrics, that showed how well the departments were meeting their mandated objectives. The GAO also helped set standards for CPA firms to audit the process and the underlying calculations.

Despite the best intentions and efforts, essentially, these two laws only helped pad the income of the contracted CPA firms. Despite 30 years of trying, most of the public would doubt that the federal government has become a model of effectiveness and efficiency despite all the effort and money spent to improve key service to the public.

Most of the employees and lower management where I worked viewed GPRA as a gigantic waste of time and a drain of resources.

Bill SB0472 looks like a mini version of GPRA at the State level.

Unlike the federal process where each Department had GPRA committees that were selected from within the organization, this bill will have committee members that span the entire state government and will contain politicians or high level appointees from politicians who will have little or no understanding of the many and varied permitting and licensing processes in the State.

Testimony Against SB0472

Somehow they will be expected to catalog all these processes and then recommend changes for streamlining all these processes in just 6 months. The bill does not discuss the creation of uniform reporting so that each department sends its requested data in a format that will lend itself to the summarization needed to produce a meaningful report in the short time allowed. To accomplish the goals of this bill, the committee members are going to need a great deal of assistance from those who actually work in these processes, thus taking time away from their basic job functions. This will result in even poorer service to the public.

Instead of the Transparent Government Act of 2024, you will have the Made Government Even Worse Act of 2024.

Please vote against SB0472.

Alan Lang
242 Armstrong Lane
Pasadena, MD 21122
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

HB0472 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: William Love

Position: UNF

I'm Bill Love of 490 Fairoak Dr, Severna Park MD

Concerning HB0472: State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)

There is a GOD, our rights come from Him, and the purpose of civil government is to protect our God given rights.

This bill and several others being considered today goes against our founding documents. These bills are an adoption of Agenda21 created by the UN. I want no part of this, the UN, or any other globalist agenda that goes against our Maryland/USA sovereignty spelled out in our constitutions.

There is no global climate emergency and the current CO2 climate cultist are using fake science to push forward their global marxist domination.

We need less, not more government. Please, vote unfavorably for all senate bills today.

Thank you