



CARRINGTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC
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House Bill 856 – Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program – Work Performed by a Regulated Lobbyist or Government Relations Firm

SUPPORT

Carrington & Associates, LLC supports House Bill 856. While we are not an MBE, this bill seeks to enhance the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program by allowing the costs for work performed by a regulated lobbyist or government relations firm, certified as an MBE, to be applied toward MBE goals under certain circumstances.

Carrington & Associates, LLC fully endorses the efforts to promote diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities within the procurement process. We believe that this bill represents a significant step forward in fostering a more inclusive business environment, aligning with our commitment to supporting initiatives that promote diversity and economic empowerment.

The proposed amendments to Article – State Finance and Procurement Section 14–302 demonstrate a thoughtful and comprehensive approach to encouraging MBE participation. The provision allowing certified MBEs, including regulated lobbyists or government relations firms, to contribute to MBE goals is particularly commendable. This provision recognizes the valuable contributions of these entities and provides an avenue for them to actively participate in the state's procurement process.

Furthermore, the bill's commitment to considering various factors, such as the availability of minority- and women-owned businesses, past participation, and other constitutional goal-setting factors, reflects a balanced and informed approach to achieving meaningful progress in MBE participation.

In addition, the bill's emphasis on transparency, accountability, and reporting requirements, including the submission of annual reports of waivers requested and granted, adds a layer of accountability that will help ensure the effective implementation of the proposed changes.

Carrington & Associates, LLC applauds the legislators involved in crafting and supporting House Bill 856. We believe that this bill will not only enhance the effectiveness of the MBE Program but also contribute to the overall economic development and diversity of our great state.

For the foregoing reasons, we ask for your FAVORABLE report for House Bill 856.