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SPEAKER PRO TEM
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Committee

Subcommittees

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The Maryland House of Delegates
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**Delegate Dana Stein Testimony in Support of
HB 418 – Maryland Efficient Grant Council**

Madam Chair and Members of the House and Government Operations Committee:

In 2020, this committee and Maryland General Assembly passed legislation to reform the state’s fragmented grant procedures by creating a standardized application and budget format to eliminate unnecessary paperwork for nonprofits and make delivery of services more efficient.

That legislation also created Maryland Efficient Grant Application Council (MEGA) to develop the standardized application and budget process. The council was to report its recommendations to the Department of Management and Budget and the General Assembly by July 1, 2024. However, due to COVID and the lack of staff support over the past 3 years, the Council has been unable to complete a report.

This bill is simple:

- It extends the Council’s termination date from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2028 and extends its reporting deadline from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2027. Mandated annual progress reports to the General Assembly are also extended through 2028.
- It adds the Comptroller or Comptroller’s designee to the Council members.
- It creates a State Grants Ombudsperson within the Governor’s Office to provide technical assistance to nonprofits accessing and navigating the grant programs; resolving delays with the process; and collecting and disseminating information regarding grant opportunities from federal, state, and local governments.

The creation of the Ombudsperson in the Governor’s Office will greatly assist nonprofits before the Council makes the substantial reforms needed to achieve the goals of the legislation passed in 2020.