



MARYLAND STATE TREASURER
Dereck E. Davis

Testimony of the Maryland State Treasurer's Office

**House Bill 578: Procurement – Department of Transportation and Maryland
Transportation Authority Contracts – Board of Public Works Authority**

Position: Favorable

House Appropriations Committee

March 4, 2025

As one of three members of the Board of Public Works (Board), the State Treasurer understands the importance of oversight and transparency in the procurement process. House Bill 578 improves transparency and strengthens both the General Assembly's and the Board's oversight by bringing specified contracts for capital expenditures worth \$500,000 or more before the Board.

Current law provides a blanket exemption from Board review for capital expenditures by the Department of Transportation and the Maryland Transportation Authority for State roads, bridges, and highways. As a result, the public and the legislature have limited visibility into the process and specifications for these important transportation projects. House Bill 578 will provide a mechanism for the State Treasurer, as the General Assembly's representative on the Board, to evaluate the merit of these procurements and discuss them at regular, public meetings.

For the foregoing reasons, the State Treasurer's Office requests that the Committee give House Bill 578 a favorable report. Please contact Laura Atas, Deputy Treasurer for Public Policy (latas@treasurer.state.md.us), with any questions.