



MARYLAND MILITARY COALITION

Serving Veterans through Legislative Advocacy

February 3, 2025

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Request for **FAVORABLE Report** – SB0426 – Procurement Reform Act of 2025

Dear Chair Guzzone and distinguished members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the members of the Maryland Military Coalition (MMC), I write to recommend a **FAVORABLE report** by the Committee on **SB0426 – Procurement Reform Act of 2025**, by request of the President of the Senate, the Honorable Bill Ferguson. This bill is a comprehensive reform and update of the Maryland State Government's procurement policies, practices, and lines of responsibility and authority.

The MMC supports this bill as it aligns with the mission of our member organization, the Maryland Veterans Chamber of Commerce (MDVCC). This bill expands procurement opportunities for veteran-owned small businesses and promotes workforce development through internships and apprenticeship programs. **The reforms introduced in this bill are positive for veteran-owned businesses as they:**

- Create greater access to state procurement contracts,
- Provide structured workforce development programs, and
- Establish strong oversight mechanisms to ensure fair treatment.

By expanding procurement opportunities, veteran entrepreneurs are positioned to compete on a more level playing field, which directly supports economic stability and growth. In addition, the bill's focus on workforce development through apprenticeships and internships ensures that veterans transitioning into civilian careers receive essential training and employment prospects. With stronger compliance regulations and administrative oversight, **the bill safeguards the interests of veteran-owned businesses and prevents potential discrimination or exclusion from state-funded opportunities.**

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The MMC **strongly supports SB0426** and asks for a **FAVORABLE report** from the Budget and Taxation Committee. These reforms represent a comprehensive and impactful approach to strengthening the economic well-being of Maryland's veteran community.

The Maryland Military Coalition is a registered non-profit, nonpartisan advocacy organization comprised of 22 prominent Maryland-based veteran and military groups. It represents over 150,000 service-connected individuals, including those currently serving, veterans, retirees and their families, caregivers and survivors. Visit our website at <https://mdmilcoalition.org/>.

We want to thank the President of the Senate for requesting this legislation on behalf of the Moore-Miller Administration and for supporting the veterans of Maryland's uniformed services community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Dragics". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent.

David L. Dragics
COL (Ret), U.S. Army
Legislative Director