



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
SMALL, MINORITY & WOMEN
BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Governor Wes Moore

Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

DATE: March 4, 2025
BILL NUMBER: HB 991
COMMITTEE: House and Government Operations
BILL TITLE: State Procurement – Minority Business Enterprise Program – Extension and Reports

GOSBA POSITION: **FAVORABLE**

Dear Chairman Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Committee:

The Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs (GOSBA) would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide written support for House Bill 991 (HB 991). HB 991 alters the provisions of law governing the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program and its application to offshore wind projects and video lottery terminals. Additionally, the proposed legislation amends the date by which certain reports, studies, and guidelines must be submitted in reference to the MBE Program.

Maryland's Disparity Study is a Statewide econometrics analysis conducted approximately every five years. The overall purpose of the Study is to determine whether there is racial and/or gender discrimination in the markets in which the State does business – both in public and private sectors.

If the resulting analysis determines that statistically significant disparities exist, those findings serve as the evidentiary basis and underpinning for the State's use of race-conscious remedies to mitigate said disparities. The State's most significant remedy is through our key socio-economic procurement program: the MBE Program.

GOSBA oversees each of the socioeconomic procurement programs across 70+ state agencies, playing a key role in the MBE, Small Business Reserve (SBR), and the Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprise (VSBE) programs. Increasing opportunities for Maryland business owners within these programs has been instrumental in promoting economic stability, particularly in the MBE, SBR, and VSBE communities.

GOSBA believes the MBE Program extension would allow Maryland to continue to be more efficient, equitable, and competitive.

GOSBA is pleased to offer this Letter of Support for HB 991 and happy to engage in further discussions regarding the bill.

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