



DATE: March 4, 2025

BILL: HB 826 – State Government – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs - Repeal

COMMITTEE: Health and Government Operations

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

Dear Chair Peña-Melnyk,

The Maryland Department of Disabilities (MDOD) is pleased to submit this letter of support with amendments for HB 826 – State Government – Interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs – Repeal, which removes outdated requirements from State Government Article §§ 9-901 and 9-303.1. We support the efforts of our colleagues in the Governor’s Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs to update, streamline, and modernize State law and processes.

In that spirit, MDOD requests consideration of an amendment that would similarly update and modernize State Government Article § 9-301.

- On page 2, line 7 (current § 9-301(c)(1)(ii), strike “a sheltered workshop for individuals with disabilities” and substitute with “a nonprofit entity which is incorporated in the State or otherwise qualified to do business in the State, has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from taxation under § 501(c)(3), (4), or (6) of the Internal Revenue Code, and is organized to promote the interests of people with disabilities.”

This amended definition would align with the definition of “nonprofit entity” in State Finance and Procurement Article § 14-301(h), relating to minority business participation.

Maryland has long been a leader in supporting competitive, integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. “Sheltered workshops” where individuals with disabilities work in segregated settings away from nondisabled peers are rare, if not obsolete, in the state. Additionally, Maryland became one of the first states to phase out subminimum wages for people with disabilities (frequently coincident with employment in sheltered workshops) with the passage of the Ken Capone Equal Employment Act of 2016 (Acts 2016, c. 521).

I respectfully request a favorable report for this bill and thank you for considering our amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Beatty".

Carol A. Beatty, Secretary

