



**Bill:** HB587 – Procurement – Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Authority  
Contracts – Board of Public Works Contract Authority

**Position:** Unfavorable

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland (ACEC/MD), we respectfully urge an unfavorable report on House Bill 587. ACEC/MD represents Maryland’s private-sector engineering firms that design and deliver the transportation, water, environmental, and public works infrastructure on which local governments and the State rely every day. Our members are deeply invested in stable, predictable transportation funding because it drives capital planning, project readiness, delivery performance, and economic growth across Maryland.

Although the House amendments raise the threshold for certain Department of Transportation and Maryland Transportation Authority capital expenditures from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000, the bill still adds new complexity to a process that is already highly complex. Maryland transportation projects already move through extensive planning and approval processes, including federal and state regulatory review, public engagement, Board authority, agency regulations, and internal operating procedures. Under HB587, projects would not only continue to face the existing procurement framework, but would also encounter a separate oversight process that can slow implementation, complicate administration, and create uncertainty.

This concern is especially significant for transportation and infrastructure work, where timing is critical. Contract modifications often arise from real-world project conditions such as design refinements, utility conflicts, field changes, right-of-way issues, and permitting adjustments. When those issues occur, agencies need flexibility to keep work moving, control costs, and maintain schedules. Adding another procedural checkpoint does not solve these problems; it adds delay. For engineers, the goal is straightforward: move projects forward. Policies that add redundant bureaucracy to already heavily reviewed infrastructure work do not improve outcomes for owners, contractors, or the public; they simply increase process for the sake of process.

For these reasons, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Maryland respectfully requests an unfavorable report on House Bill 587.