



February 20, 2026

FAVORABLE: SB641/HB728 State Procurement - Exceptions - Historic Preservation Services

On behalf of the Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition (13 heritage areas that touch every county in Maryland and the City of Baltimore) we thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony strongly in **SUPPORT of SB641/HB728**.

As a nonprofit organization with limited resources and a desire to work in partnership with state agencies, this bill cuts red tape and will allow us to get more done for the citizens of Maryland.

This legislation simply permits select agencies and nonprofits to support each other in cooperative efforts only on projects pertaining to *historic preservation, archaeology, and conservation*. The agencies included under this new measure are the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS), Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), and Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

The legislation mandates **no new funding, creates no new barriers** and will help the state do more with less for our rich heritage and historic places. As the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of independence, we feel this is a positive step forward for heritage preservation and community engagement.

As the bill sponsors have noted, unlike the federal government and many other states, Maryland state agencies are often entirely prohibited from working directly with nonprofit organizations unless there is a specific grant program or long RFP process. This legislation would allow agencies to work collaboratively, deploy small sources of existing funds and resources to nonprofits without cumbersome RFPs to effect change in communities faster.

We sincerely appreciate the committee's consideration and ask for a **FAVORABLE REPORT** on SB641/HB728.

With Appreciation,

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