

SB0641_DHCD_SUPPORT.pdf

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Position: FAV



WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

DATE: February 25, 2026
BILL NO: Senate Bill 641
TITLE: State Procurement - Exceptions - Historic Preservation Services
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Letter of Support

Description of Bill:

Senate Bill 641 would establish procurement exceptions to certain state agencies allowing them to directly partner with nonprofit organizations, for historic preservation, archaeology and conservation projects. The bill would maintain safeguards to support accountability by requiring subcontracting and annual reporting while maximizing community engagement efforts.

Background and Analysis:

Maryland state procurement laws exist for a reason: to maintain transparency and accountability in the use of public funds. These protections are essential. However, there are times when the traditional procurement process moves more slowly than the challenges we face – especially when the work is specialized and community driven, such as historic preservation, archaeology, and conservation – and we can find efficiencies in the system that do not sacrifice the transparency so necessary for good governance.

These projects are not simply about building or specific sites, but rather about strengthening communities and honoring the history and identity of the people they serve. Nonprofit organizations are often uniquely positioned to lead this work by bringing their expertise and local knowledge to the table. These strategic collaborations with nonprofit organizations can foster long term community investment while giving state agencies the flexibility to move projects forward efficiently.

At the same time, SB 641 keeps accountability at the forefront. By requiring nonprofits to hire subcontractors and produce annual spending and outcome reports, the bill will ensure transparency while enabling more effective, aligned partnerships. This balanced approach will support DHCD's mission to strengthen Maryland's communities by allowing us to work more effectively with trusted nonprofit partners in historic preservation and community-based development, ultimately helping to preserve Maryland's history while fostering resilient, vibrant neighborhoods.

DHCD Position

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 641.



Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition_FAVORABLE_SB641 a

Uploaded by: Lucille Walker

Position: FAV



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,

Lucille W. Walker

Lucille W. Walker
Co-Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition
Executive Director, Southern Maryland NHA

Brigitte Carty

Brigitte Carty
Co-Chair, Maryland Heritage Areas Coalition
Executive Director, Lower Susquehanna HGW

Southern MD National Heritage Area_FAVORABLE_SB641

Uploaded by: Lucille Walker

Position: FAV



DestinationSouthernMaryland.com
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Southern Maryland National Heritage Area
P. O. Box 745 | Hughesville, MD 20637

February 20, 2026

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

On behalf of the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, I 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.

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

Appreciatively,

Lucille W. Walker
Executive Director

SB641 - State Procurement - Exceptions - Historic

Uploaded by: Maggi Currier

Position: FAV

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2026

BILL NO: SB641

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: State Procurement – Exceptions – Historic Preservation Services

BILL ANALYSIS:

SB641 would allow DGS, MDP, DHCD and MDOT to enter into agreements or partnerships with nonprofit entities for projects related to historic preservation, archaeology or conservation service opportunities. In such cases, the nonprofit entity would be required to competitively procure any subcontracted services, provide annual reports to the agency on partnership outcomes and expenditures, and maximize opportunities for community engagement related to such projects.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

MDP supports SB641 as the bill would allow the agency to partner with nonprofit organizations with specialized knowledge to procure services in support of the agency's mission. Federal agencies already use this tool to partner with nonprofit organizations, and the Department of Natural Resources has a successful track record of using cooperative agreements to conduct historic preservation activities in support of state parks. SB641 will allow MDP to stretch its limited budget and accelerate procurement of services related to historic preservation and archaeological research activities through collaboration with nonprofit partners.

MDP requests a favorable report of SB641.

SB0641 PresMD FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nicholas Redding

Position: FAV



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

February 25, 2026

Hon. Guy Guzzone
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland

Chairperson Guzzone,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Preservation Maryland and our thousands of statewide supporters, I thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony strongly in **SUPPORT of SB641.**

What Does This Legislation Do?

The legislation is relatively simple. This bill would allow select agencies and nonprofits to support each other in cooperative efforts 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).

Will it Cost More Money?

No, bill sponsors and advocates do not believe there is any fiscal impact since it requires NO new funds and imposes no mandate. It will simply create an additional tool for agencies to use on preservation projects using existing funds.

Why Is this Necessary?

Unlike the federal government and many other states, Maryland state agencies are often prohibited by antiquated procurement rules from working directly with nonprofit organizations unless there is a specific, delineated grant program.

This blanket prohibition stifles innovation, prevents collaboration, and diminishes the potential for private philanthropy to support state agency projects.

How Do We Know This Will Work?

In limited circumstances, this type of cooperation is already possible (due to existing procurement exemptions like that which this bill would address) and has been very effective.

- For example, an existing procurement exemption enables the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to work directly with nonprofits on conservation service projects, using tailored agreements to deliver public benefit while avoiding the cost and delay of unnecessary RFP processes, particularly for smaller projects.
- **A Proven Federal Model:** Many federal agencies already operate this way. The Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESU) network, for instance, includes 500+ nonprofit and academic partners working with 19 federal agencies on complex preservation and conservation challenges. This network has operated in the manner envisioned by this bill for the past 27 years.

Why Now?

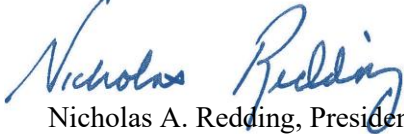
This change would empower state agencies — many of which are already operating with reduced staff and resources — to continue addressing important preservation priorities by leveraging the capacity, expertise, and efficiency of nonprofit partners. As federal and state resources become far more limited, this small change would allow Maryland to *stretch dollars further* by working with mission-aligned nonprofit partners on shared goals, avoiding duplicative procurement processes and unnecessary administrative overhead.

Will This Hurt Small Businesses or Reduce Community Input?

No, absolutely not. In fact, the bill was drafted with this in mind and includes several key requirements to 1) make any subcontracting associated with the projects fully competitive, 2) engage and market to local communities for project planning, and 3) transparently report on partnership outcomes.

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

Appreciatively,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nicholas Redding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "N" and "R".

Nicholas A. Redding, President & CEO

SB 641 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

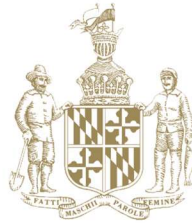
PAUL D. CORDERMAN
Legislative District 2
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 25, 2026

Senate Budget & Tax Committee
Chair Guy Guzzone
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Testimony In Support of SB 641 - State Procurement - Exceptions - Historic Preservation Services

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 641. SB 641 will provide additional flexibility for certain State agencies to partner with nonprofit organizations on projects related to historic preservation, archaeology, and conservation service opportunities. By clarifying procurement requirements and expanding partnership authority, SB 641 will help facilitate collaborative efforts that advance important public initiatives.

SB 641 maintains appropriate safeguards by requiring transparency, competitive subcontracting, annual reporting, and community engagement. This balanced approach promotes efficiency while ensuring accountability in the use of public resources.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and we respectfully request a favorable report on SB 641.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. D. Corderman".

Senator Paul D. Corderman – District 2, Washington & Frederick Counties