

HB 193_State Procurement-Transparency and Procedur

Uploaded by: Hannah Allen

Position: FAV



House Bill 193

Date: April 2, 2026

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Position: Favorable

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

A transparent and predictable procurement process is essential to ensuring the state attracts broad, competitive participation from businesses of all sizes. House Bill 193 takes meaningful steps toward this goal by requiring timely debriefings for unsuccessful offerors upon request, with clear guidance on the disclosure of relevant information unless legitimately deemed proprietary or privileged. These debriefings will help businesses better understand procurement decisions and improve the quality of future proposals.

The bill also clarifies exemptions and standards related to participation in drafting specifications and responding to competitive solicitations, helping to reduce unnecessary barriers to entry while preserving the integrity of the procurement process. In addition, HB 193 updates contract clauses and change order requirements, including providing for equitable adjustments when changes in law occur, which adds greater predictability for both contractors and the state. Finally, the legislation modernizes protest and contract claim procedures by establishing clearer timelines and documentation standards, promoting consistency and reducing administrative uncertainty.

These improvements will strengthen confidence in Maryland's procurement processes, increase competition, and help ensure that the state receives the best value for public expenditures.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report on HB 193**.

Del Kerr HB193 Testimony .pdf

Uploaded by: Ken Kerr

Position: FAV

KENNETH P. KERR, ED.D
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and Biotechnology

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony from Delegate Ken Kerr
HB 193 -- State Procurement – Transparency and Procedures
April 2, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

House Bill 193 makes important, practical improvements to Maryland’s procurement system—improvements that will increase transparency, fairness, and predictability for both the State and the businesses that seek to work with it.

First, the bill strengthens debriefing requirements for unsuccessful bidders. This is a commonsense reform. When vendors understand why they were not selected, they are better positioned to improve future proposals, which ultimately leads to stronger competition and better outcomes for the State.

Second, the bill brings much-needed clarity to how contract changes and claims are handled. By standardizing procedures across different types of contracts and extending timelines where appropriate, HB 193 reduces confusion and ensures that disputes are addressed in a more consistent and orderly manner.

Third, the bill recognizes a simple reality: laws and regulations change. By requiring contracts to include provisions for equitable adjustments, it protects both the State and its contractors from unforeseen circumstances that could otherwise disrupt critical projects or increase costs unpredictably.

Finally, by streamlining the protest process, the bill helps ensure that procurement decisions are resolved more efficiently, reducing delays while maintaining fairness.

Taken together, these reforms will make Maryland's procurement system more transparent, more efficient, and more competitive. That benefits taxpayers, agencies, and the private sector alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on House Bill 193.

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Uploaded by: Nicole Mcdonald

Position: UNF

Testimony for HB 193 (UNFAVORABLE)

The McDonald Mandate: Stopping the Privatization of Accountability To the House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

My name is Ms. McDonald, and I am a candidate for Delegate in District 45. I am writing to express my strong **UNFAVORABLE** stance on HB 193. While this bill is presented as a way to "refine procedures" and provide "equitable adjustments" for contractors, it is actually a gateway to further stripping services from our public system.

1. The Human Cost of Procurement "Refinements" (SB 742 Connection)

We cannot talk about procurement procedures without talking about the results of those procedures. In District 45, we are witnessing the fallout of a vendor-first model. As highlighted in **SB 742 (The Protecting People with Disabilities Act)**, we have a system where vulnerable Marylanders are being procedurally disenrolled and stripped of their lifelines. When we make it easier for state units to adjust contracts and protect vendor interests—as HB 193 seeks to do—we are prioritizing the profit of private contractors over the eligibility and care of people with developmental disabilities.

2. The Pay Gap: Vendors vs. Public Servants (HB 607 & SB 886 Connection)

It is a slap in the face to my constituents to see **HB 607** proposing salary increases for Constitutional Officers (up to \$185,000) and **SB 886** pushing for constitutional wage mandates for vendors, while the actual services in our community are being "stripped from the system." HB 193 seeks to provide "equitable adjustments" to compensate contractors for increased costs. Where is the "equitable adjustment" for the families in District 45 facing an imminent threat of homelessness? We are subsidizing the overhead of private vendors while our public staff and community

resources are left to rot.

3. Accountability, Not Adjustments

HB 193 provides more protections for *unsuccessful* offerors to get debriefings and more time for *contractors* to file claims against the state. We do not need more protections for contractors; we need more protections for the people they are supposed to serve. My mandate for District 45 is to stop the "Jive not drive" mentality of the state—moving money around in backroom procurement deals while the community loses its grocery stores, its vocational training, and its dignity.

Conclusion

I urge this committee to issue an **UNFAVORABLE** report on HB 193. We should not be "refining" a procurement system that is already being used to strip resources from the heart of Baltimore City. Until we can guarantee that not one more person is disenrolled due to administrative error or vendor greed, we must stop giving the system more ways to prioritize contractors over citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ms. McDonald

By Authority of: Nichole McDonald for District 45 Lonetta Mason, Treasurer

HB 193 - Senate Testimony - SUPP - 4-2-2026 (1).pd

Uploaded by: John Woolums

Position: INFO



House Bill 193 - State Procurement - Transparency and Procedures

Position: Letter of Information

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation

Date: April 2, 2026

From: John R. Woolums, Esq.

The Department of General Services (DGS) takes no position on House Bill 193 and is providing this Letter of Information for the Committee's consideration.

This legislation proposes significant revisions to State procurement standards and procedures regarding change orders and contract modifications; bid protests and contract claims; debriefings for unsuccessful offerors; and procurement ethics. The bill would expand certain procurement procedures governing contract claims that currently apply only to construction contracts to all types of contracts. In addition, the bill would extend the deadline for contractors to submit a written notice of a claim from 30 to 60 days.

DGS and the Office of State Procurement (OSP) greatly appreciate the sponsor's willingness to work with the agencies responsible for implementing this bill, as well as the advocates for our State's contracting community, to craft extensive amendments that address an array of stakeholder concerns. Through these amendments, DGS believes the bill represents a balanced approach to maintaining the intent of the legislation to improve the state procurement process for contractors and state agencies while also addressing many of the issues DGS raised regarding the bill as introduced.

For example, House Bill 193 would require a contract clause establishing that contractors are authorized to request a contract modification to provide an equitable adjustment to compensate the contractor for increases in the cost of and time for contract performance due to changes in State law that is applied by the procurement unit. As amended, the language allows these requests to be within the allowable scope of adjustments the State may make to a contract without shifting the burden of unexpected costs from contractors to the State, which could increase uncertainty and could significantly increase project expenses. The revised language maintains appropriate negotiating authority for all parties, while providing contractors with the ability to request an equitable adjustment when costs could not have been anticipated.

Again, DGS is providing this testimony for informational purposes, and the Department looks forward to being of further assistance as the Committee considers this bill.

Contact: John R. Woolums, Esq., Director of Government and Legislative Affairs,
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Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – House Bill 193 – State Procurement – Transparency and Procedures

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on House Bill 193 and offers the following letter of information for the Committee’s consideration.

House Bill 193 makes changes to State procurement-related definitions, processes, and requirements impacting debriefings for unsuccessful offerors, contract modifications, protests, and contract claims.

MDOT appreciates the sponsor’s willingness to work with the agencies responsible for implementing the provisions of this bill. Through this collaboration with the sponsor and advocates for our State’s contracting community, we have been able to maintain the intent of the legislation, make Maryland more business-friendly, provide necessary protections for State agencies, and address many of the concerns highlighted by MDOT in its initial letter.

Importantly, House Bill 193 was amended to require a clause establishing that contractors are authorized to request a contract modification to provide an equitable adjustment to compensate the contractor for increases in the cost of and time for contract performance due to changes in State law that is applied by the procurement unit. As amended, the language allows these requests to be within the allowable scope of adjustments the State may make to a contract without shifting the burden of unexpected costs from contractors to the State, which could increase uncertainty and could significantly increase project expenses. The revised language maintains appropriate negotiating authority for all parties while providing contractors with the ability to request an equitable adjustment when costs could not have been anticipated.

The Maryland Department of Transportation looks forward to participating in the discussion of this bill and respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating House Bill 193.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090