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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB69: Removing Nonprofit Navigator Sunset

Senate Finance Committee

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 3:00 PM

Maryland's 41,000+ nonprofit organizations provide services people rely on for food, housing assistance, legal advice, literacy, mental health programs, and community enrichment activities. Nonprofits are anchors and essential in our daily lives.

In 2025, we passed [SB365](#), which established the first-in-the-nation "Nonprofit Navigator" within the Department of Commerce. The Navigator has already proven to be an excellent resource for our nonprofits, helping them access information and connect to government and private sector resources.

The Navigator provides:

- Hands-on help: Assists in completing State grant applications and reviews drafts of other proposals;
- Problem-Solving: Resolves roadblocks like payment delays after a grant is awarded; and
- Grant Search Expertise: Provides one-on-one support to find relevant federal, state, local, and private funding opportunities relevant to their mission.

The Navigator also serves on the Maryland Efficient Grant Application (MEGA) Council, helping to reduce administrative burdens and redundancies in grant procedures.

In four months, Nonprofit Navigator Jessica Doiron has:

- Assisted 34 nonprofits (located in 12 counties) to find and apply for grants;
- Helped 145 nonprofit staffers register for technical assistance training to increase their knowledge and skills; and
- Partnered to secure \$370,000 in funding.

The Navigator also publishes a monthly newsletter. This is a free state resource offering timely, valuable information and direct assistance for grantseekers.

As federal programs have been cut or eliminated, it is critical that nonprofits receive the support they need to identify grant opportunities and secure funding. Maryland's Nonprofit Navigator provides this essential service.

Last year, an amendment created a 2-year sunset for the Navigator position. This means that the Navigator is a contractual position **without benefits** that would terminate next year. This bill simply removes the sunset.

The fiscal note indicates there is no fiscal effect in the coming year because the current contract is funded through the end of FY2027. There will be minimal effect in FY2028 and beyond from converting it to a regular position.

I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB69.