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Environment and Transportation
Committee

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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Members of the Government, Labor, and Election Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 1416 – State Procurement and Recipients of State Funding – Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment – Minority Business Enterprise Participation.

Maryland is investing heavily in the infrastructure needed to support the future of transportation, including the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations across our State. As we make these investments, we should also ensure that the economic opportunities created by this work are accessible to businesses across Maryland.

House Bill 1416 helps ensure that minority-owned businesses are able to participate in this growing sector of infrastructure development.

Maryland recognizes that minority-owned businesses face barriers when it comes to participating in large public contracting opportunities. The Minority Business Enterprise Program was established to help address those disparities and create meaningful pathways for qualified businesses to compete for State-funded work. As Maryland continues expanding electric vehicle infrastructure, it is important that these new investments reflect that same commitment to inclusive economic growth.

HB1416 builds on the State's existing MBE framework in two ways.

First, when a State contract includes the supply or installation of electric vehicle charging equipment, the State unit must set an expected level of Minority Business Enterprise participation for those portions of the contract. Second, when an entity receives \$100,000 or more in State funding through a grant or loan to purchase or install electric vehicle charging equipment, the recipient must comply with Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise Program.

These provisions help ensure that as Maryland builds out its charging infrastructure, opportunities for minority-owned businesses are included in that work.

For example, imagine a project where State funding is used to install electric vehicle charging stations at a large apartment complex or public parking facility. Projects like this require electrical installation, equipment procurement, and infrastructure upgrades.

Under House Bill 1416, the entity receiving State funding would need to comply with Maryland's Minority Business Enterprise participation framework. This creates opportunities for certified minority-owned contractors to compete for portions of the work, whether through electrical installation, equipment supply, or related services.


For a minority-owned electrical contractor, participating in a project like this can be significant. It allows a business to expand its experience in a growing sector, hire additional workers, and position itself for future infrastructure projects as Maryland's charging network continues to grow. These businesses often employ workers from the communities they serve, and when they grow, the economic benefits extend beyond the business itself.

House Bill 1416 also directs the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to establish clear goals and procedures related to participation in projects involving electric vehicle charging infrastructure funded by the State. This helps ensure the program is implemented consistently within Maryland's existing Minority Business Enterprise framework.

Maryland's transition to cleaner transportation is not only about new technology. It is also about ensuring that the opportunities created by these investments reach businesses and communities across our State. House Bill 1416 ensures that as we invest in the infrastructure of tomorrow, we also invest in the businesses, workers, and communities that have historically been underrepresented in public contracting.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1416.

Very Truly Yours,


Delegate Jeffrie E. Long, Jr.