

DYLAN BEHLER  
Legislative District 30A  
Anne Arundel County



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 154  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3045  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3045  
Dylan.Behler@house.maryland.gov

Environment and Transportation  
Committee

*Subcommittees*

Agriculture and Aquaculture

Energy

Environment

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 24, 2026

**Testimony in Favor of HB728  
State Procurement – Exceptions – Historic Preservation Services**

To Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

I respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 728 to expand existing state procurement exemptions to allow additional agencies to form direct partnerships for preservation, archaeology, and conservation work.

Currently, partnerships for preservation or other related conservation work requires Agencies to go through a rigorous procurement process; however, there currently exists a statutory exemption at the Department of Natural Resources to allow more direct partnerships for conservation services.

This legislation would provide a similar exemption to would authorize the Departments of General Services, Housing and Community Development, Planning, and Transportation to enter into contracts with entities to perform historic preservation services, including stipulations on fair competition for contracts, oversight by state agencies, and public engagement and input.

As state resources become more limited, this small change would allow Maryland to stretch dollars further by working with mission-aligned partners on shared goals, avoiding duplicative procurement processes and unnecessary administrative overhead. This approach also mirrors federal procurement processes and allows state agencies to conserve their time and resources by leveraging the capacity, expertise, and efficiency of nonprofit organizations.

Once again, I respectfully request a favorable report of House Bill 728.