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April 7, 2026

Testimony on Senate Bill 69

Nonprofit Organizations Navigator – Termination Provision – Repeal  
House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee

Position: SUPPORT

Maryland Nonprofits is a statewide association of almost 2000 nonprofit organizations and institutions, with members of all sizes from every county. We strongly urge you to support Senate Bill 69 to repeal the ‘sunset’ provision that would terminate the Nonprofit Navigator position in the Department of Commerce in middle of next year.

Nonprofits of all sizes experience issues dealing with state agencies, accessing or utilizing state programs, often because they are unable to identify or reach the appropriate office or individual in state government. Issues can arise with grant announcements or requirements, and with delays processing invoices or payments. These not only create obstacles for a nonprofit but can hinder the effective or efficient delivery of the services they provide on behalf of the state itself.

Smaller community-based organizations, most led by volunteers, comprise the vast majority of Maryland’s 40,000+ nonprofits, and often have difficulties identifying appropriate state grant or other funding opportunities. While federal support for many programs and services has become erratic and more restricted, the needs and demands for government and nonprofits services are increasing in communities across the state.

Since this position was filled last Fall, the Nonprofit Navigator has already done extensive personal outreach across the state’s nonprofit community, established a webpage with numerous resources, established a monthly newsletter with current grants information and opportunities, and measurably improved access to state agencies by nonprofits.

Most importantly, the Nonprofit Navigator is a liaison, who can help organizations connect to the right person or office, wherever in state government, to address issues and concerns. That is particularly valuable with those grants and funding issues, and the Navigator is now a member of the Maryland Efficient Grants Application Council and chairs the Council’s Customer Service Workgroup.

The Nonprofit Navigator position is already providing:

- Assistance preparing State grant applications and review of final drafts of all other proposals.



- Resolution of issues with grants requirements and delays or roadblocks after an award is made, especially payment delays or contractual/administrative snags, with awarded State grants.
- Grant Search Assistance and one-on-one support to assist nonprofits with finding relevant Federal, State, Local, and Private funding opportunities for their mission.

We urge you to support Senate Bill 69 and allow the Nonprofit Navigator to further strengthen the relationship of state agencies with nonprofits that deliver the majority of state services to our communities.