

HEARING DATE: February 24, 2026

BILL NO: HB 728

COMMITTEE: Government, Labor and Elections

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Maggi Currier (301) 471-9644

TITLE: State Procurement – Exceptions – Historic Preservation Services

BILL ANALYSIS:

HB728 would allow DGS, MDP, DHCD and MDOT to enter into agreements or partnerships with nonprofit entities for projects related to historic preservation, archaeology or conservation service opportunities. In such cases, the nonprofit entity would be required to competitively procure any subcontracted services, provide annual reports to the agency on partnership outcomes and expenditures, and maximize opportunities for community engagement related to such projects.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

MDP supports HB 728 as the bill would allow the agency to partner with nonprofit organizations with specialized knowledge to procure services in support of the agency's mission. Federal agencies already use this tool to partner with nonprofit organizations, and the Department of Natural Resources has a successful track record of using cooperative agreements to conduct historic preservation activities in support of state parks. HB728 will allow MDP to stretch its limited budget and accelerate procurement of services related to historic preservation and archaeological research activities through collaboration with nonprofit partners.

MDP requests a favorable report of HB728.