



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 983: Small and Minority Business Certification Streamlining Act of 2019

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

March 12, 2019

SUPPORT

This bill establishes that regulations governing the Small Business Preference (SBP) program must require qualification of a business as a small business if the business has obtained certification under a comparable federal program, without filing any additional paperwork other than evidence of federal certification. It also requires that regulations governing the State's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) program allow for the certification of a business as an MBE if the business has obtained certification under the federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and meets the eligibility requirements of the State's MBE program.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) pursued a similar streamlining and removal of obstacles for veteran procurement and appreciates extending this streamlining to other businesses. A small business that has obtained certification as a DBE can more readily obtain State certification as an MBE; the MBE certification process can be complicated and long. This may enable such businesses to bid on State contracts earlier than they otherwise could and may provide administrative efficiencies to many small businesses.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report on Senate Bill 983.

MCCC accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.