



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Public Safety and Government Operations

Bill 21-0069

Transparency in Procurement

Sponsor: Councilman Glover

Introduced: April 19, 2021

Purpose:

For the purpose of adding certain disclosure requirements related to fulfillment of detailed specifications for contracts, prior contracting experience, and the demographic characteristics of employees, other sources of labor, and board members of contractors and subcontractors for City contracts over \$100,000; defining certain terms; establishing certain administrative penalties; and generally relating to better transparency in Baltimore City procurement.

Effective: On the 30th day after enactment.

Agency Reports

Department of Law	Comments
Department of Finance	
MWBOO	
MOMWBDO	
Labor Commissioner	



Analysis

By adding:

Article V – Finance, Property, and Procurement; Section 49-1 through 49-7; Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000)

Background

In a report published by Transparency International, they highlighted that around \$9.5 trillion of public money is spent each year by governments procuring goods and services for citizens. The report goes on to highlight how with the adoption of concrete specific transparency measures in public procurement everybody wins. The private sector benefits from a level playing field, predictable business environments and a reduction in risk. Governments are able to exercise greater efficiency in public spending, better quality of public services and enhanced trust. Citizens meanwhile benefit from better and more appropriate services, and more effective checks and balances.

If enacted, bill 21-0069 would require a contractor who enters into a service contract valued at \$100,000 or more to disclose, and agree to require all subcontractors on the contract to disclose capacity and demographic information. Failure to adhere to the reporting requirements outlined in this legislation would come with a wide range of administrative penalties including disqualification of a bidder to provide the City with services for a period not to exceed 2 years. The annual report must be posted on the Department of Finance's website, and shared with area organizations that specialize in business growth and workforce development.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Agency Reports, Transparency International

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