



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Taxation, Finance and Economic Development

Bill 20-0536

Minority and Women's Business Program – Interim Extension

Sponsor: *The Council President*

Introduced: *June 15, 2020*

Purpose:

For the purpose of postponing, for an interim period, the automatic termination of the Minority and Women's Business Program; providing for a special effective date; and generally relating to City procurement requirements.

Effective: On the date of enactment

Agency Reports

Baltimore Development Corporation	
Mayor's Office of Employment Development	
MWBOO - Law	
Department of Law	
MWOBD - Mayor's Office	

Analysis

Current Law:

Article V – Finance, Property, and Procurement; Section 28-5; Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000)

Background

In 2014, the City of Baltimore commissioned NERA Economic Consulting to conduct a study to evaluate: The State of Minority-and Women-Owned Business Enterprise: Evidence from Baltimore. The studies purpose was to investigate whether business enterprises in the City's market area had a full and fair opportunity to compete for prime and associated subcontracts. Data analysis was conducted in the study and it found evidence consistent with the presence of business discrimination against Minority and Women's Business Enterprises. The report also details an analysis that found the City's own contracting and purchasing process contained documented evidence of business discrimination.

In Article V – Section 28:3, one of the objectives of this study and subsequent legislation was to provide remedies to address the effects of past discrimination by setting MWBE goals, instituting race and gender equity into the MBE/WBE Program, and providing criminal penalties for fraudulent misuse of this subtitle.

Article V – Section 28:5 is set to expire on August 31,2020, if this bill is enacted it would extend the automatic termination period until December 31, 2021.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Agency Reports, NERA Economic Consulting

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Analysis Date: July 21, 2020

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