



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

SB 71

SUPPORT

**Ed., Health, &
Env. Affairs
Committee
1/26/10**

SB 71

Procurement – Small Business Reserve Program – Sunset Extension

Bill Summary: This bill would extend the sunset on the Small Business Reserve Program until 2016.

Chamber Position: The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports this bill because it expands opportunities for Maryland small businesses to compete for state procurements. Unbundling state procurements increases competition for state projects and services, while strengthening Maryland's small business sector.

Most Maryland businesses, and most members of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, have fewer than 50 employees. Small businesses face ongoing challenges of access to loans and limited staffing that make competition for state procurements more difficult. This program awarded nearly \$132 million in small business procurements in FY 2008. We appreciate the state's effort to promote small business development through the Small Business Reserve Program, and recommend its extension.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for this bill.

Contact: Ronald W. Wineholt, rwineholt@mdchamber.org