



Illinois State Association of Counties

POSITION STATEMENT

Date: January 1, 2024

ENHANCE PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MINORITIES

SUPPORT HB 4440

The State of Illinois and local governments have an interest in contributing to societal equity by increasing opportunities for firms owned and/or operated by women, minorities and the disabled seeking to secure contracts for goods and services.

Current Law:

The Illinois Counties Code does not have clear language authorizing the establishment of goals for the procurement of goods and services that promote and encourage the participation of minority-owned and operated businesses, women-owned and operated businesses and businesses owned and operated by persons with disabilities. The lack of such language creates uncertainty over whether a county can establish these goals within their procurement policies.

Proposed Change:

Provide counties with clear authority to establish procurement processes that could favor contracting with minority-owned and operated businesses, women-owned and operated businesses, businesses owned and operated by persons with disabilities and businesses owned and operated by veterans. Additionally, provide clear authority for counties to establish procurement goals involving businesses located within the county.

**CLARIFY THAT ALL COUNTIES CAN ESTABLISH PROCUREMENT GOALS THAT
ENHANCE SOCIETAL EQUITY.**