



6240 Old Dobbin Lane ■ Suite 110 ■ Columbia, MD 21045

March 3, 2020

Honorable Shane E. Pendergrass  
Chair,  
Health & Government Operations Committee  
241 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Subj: HB 817 Regulations Affecting Small Businesses - Certification of Comparable Local Regulation**  
**Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Pendergrass:

On behalf of the members of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce, I want to express our support for HB 817 Regulations Affecting Small Businesses - Certification of Comparable Local Regulation.

To our members as well as the County government, this legislative proposal is a reasonable approach to eliminate confusion and duplication that can arise when a small business confronts a state law/regulation that conflicts with a local law/regulation intended to address the same issue. While both the state and local law/regulation may be equally effective, they are not identical. The problem then becomes which law or regulation should be enforced and hopefully not both.

As the members of Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (EHEA) members are aware, Howard County is one of 11 Charter jurisdictions in which the Maryland General Assembly has vested broad legislative powers to enact and enforce local laws and regulations.

Recognizing the authority invested in jurisdictions like Howard County Government and with the desire to maintain reasonable continuity when these laws and regulations are administered, we hope that the members of the EHEA will agree that SB 720 is the most practical solution that would allow a small business to continue compliance with comparable state and local laws/regulations.

Accordingly, I request a favorable report for HB 817 Regulations Affecting Small Businesses - Certification of Comparable Local Regulation

Respectfully,

Leonardo McClarty, CCE  
President, Howard County Chamber

CC: Senator Katie Fry Hester  
Howard County Chamber Board of Directors  
Howard County Chamber Legislative Affairs Committee