

SENATE BILL 234:

SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
Suspension of Driver's License or Registration - Unpaid Citations or Judgments
STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

February 4, 2020

Marriott International, Inc. is a global lodging leader headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland. Since its founding in the 1920s as a small restaurant chain in Washington, DC, the company has grown to comprise more than 7,000 lodging properties in 129 countries and territories, including 98 hotels in the State of Maryland. Our hotels and corporate offices in Maryland together employ over 12,000 people.

Marriott supports SB 234, as it would discontinue a practice that harms Maryland's workforce by compounding the accumulation of debt and threatening opportunities for employment.

According to U.S. Census data, 73% of Marylanders drive themselves to work. Despite laudable investments in public transportation by the state, many Maryland residents still depend on their ability to drive to maintain a job and possession of a valid driver's license can be critical to one's ability to earn income and meet financial obligations. This holds true for a number of Marriott associates in Maryland, particularly those working at our locations in suburban or rural counties with ready access to public transit options.

Given this, we support efforts to reduce the number of driver's licenses suspended by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) as a result of an individual's inability to pay outstanding tickets. While we understand MVA must act to protect the safety of our roadways by deterring repeat offenses, we believe this could be done in a manner that avoids exacerbating economic inequalities by limiting instances where individuals are removed from the driver's seat – and by extension the workforce – unless absolutely necessary.

In this period of relatively low unemployment, passing SB 234 is one way to ensure those who might benefit from a job in hospitality have the opportunity to offer their services to prospective employers, regardless of whether they can afford to pay a traffic fine.

For these reasons, we join Attorney General Frosh's office in supporting SB 234 and urge a favorable report from the committee.

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