



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Favorable**

**House Bill 220—Income Tax Credit—  
Employment of Apprentices—Extension  
House Ways & Means Committee**

**Friday, February 14, 2020**

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families. Part of our work includes developing a workforce and talent pipeline that ensures Maryland's continued economic expansion.

House Bill 220 would extend the income tax available to employers who hire an eligible apprentice.

Apprenticeship programs are designed to provide adults and students pathways to further education and sustainable employment in STEM occupations or other occupations within CTE Career Clusters. The Maryland Chamber of Commerce serves on the advisory committee of Apprenticeship Maryland, a program intended to create compensated, high quality youth apprenticeships that prepare students to enter employment in high-skilled, high-growth sectors including manufacturing and STEM fields. Through this program, the Chamber assists in helping to connect business partners with stakeholders representing the education and labor sectors.

We believe that apprenticeships are a critical part of fueling the talent pipeline and allowing Maryland's workforce to meet evolving demands in all industry sectors.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on House Bill 220.

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