



MARYLAND

Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Favorable

House Bill 548

Career and Technology Education – Training in Soft Business Skills

House Ways and 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 that work includes advocating for policies that seek to promote, maintain, and educate Maryland's workforce on the skills needed to thrive in today's economy.

HB 548 seeks to add training in soft business skills to the curriculum requirements in career and technology programs in Maryland public schools. The skills outlined in the legislation include training in employee and employer relationships, general business etiquette, group work skills, and project planning, to name a few. HB 548 aims to adequately prepare students with the tools to secure gainful employment and excel in their careers.

Maryland's businesses continue to focus and invest in our state's education system to ensure that Maryland's future workforce is equipped to succeed in an ever-changing economy. HB 548 looks to make the interpersonal skills sought after by companies large and small become a permanent part of our public education system.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **HB 548**.

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