



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

House Bill 1276 - County Property Tax - Classifications of Real Property and Authority to Set Special Rates

Ways and Means Committee

February 27, 2020

OPPOSE

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **opposes House Bill 1276**. This bill would allow a County to set different property tax rates based on property type and certain characteristics. Currently, the County is required by State law to set the same ad valorem rate for all properties in the County.

On February 13th, a group of nine business organizations from Montgomery and Prince George's County sent a letter to the Chairs of the Budget and Tax and Ways and Means Committee expressing strong concerns over the multitude of proposed tax increases. The success of the Kirwan Commission is tied to a strong tax base and a competitive economy that can steadily fund these policies into the future. To grow our tax base, our government should continue to invest in filling our unmet housing needs and a diversified and accessible transportation system across the state.

The Chamber strongly supports the proposal to create a commission to analyze and make recommendations as to how to make Maryland's tax structure more business-friendly and economically competitive. This more comprehensive and strategic approach should be adopted, rather than a series of tax "one-offs" with little understood consequences.

While this bill only is authorizing and not prescribing, the Chamber has concerns about allowing jurisdictions these flexibilities prior to an analysis of Maryland's current tax structure. For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber opposes House Bill 1276 and respectfully urges an unfavorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.