

SB 577 - Makerspace Pilot Program.pdf

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Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League
The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 23, 2021

Committee: Senate Finance

Bill: _____ SB 577 – Economic Development – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports SB 577. This bill establishes the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation to encourage the establishment and expansion of makerspaces throughout the State. The bill authorizes the Corporation to award financial assistance to local governments, designees of local governments, and nonprofit entities for the establishment of makerspaces in the State.

As our municipalities interface with schools and non-profit organizations to expand on existing technological and educational opportunities in their jurisdictions, many are exploring the establishment of makerspaces within their communities. These venues allow both young and old residents to interact with one another and learn new skills. This also provides an opportunity for children and young adults to experience alternative entertainment options before and after school.

The League therefore respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 577 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Scott A. Hancock	Executive Director
Angelica Bailey	Director, Government Relations
Bill Jorch	Director, Research and Policy Analysis
Justin Fiore	Manager, Government Relations

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SB0577-FIN_MACo_SUP.pdf

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Position: FAV



Senate Bill 577

Economic Development - Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Finance and Budget and Taxation
Committees

Date: February 23, 2021

From: Alex Butler and Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SB 577. This bill creates a grant program to help counties, nonprofits, and other eligible applicants establish or expand makerspaces.

Makerspaces provide the space and means for community members to design, prototype, and manufacture items using tools that would otherwise be inaccessible or unaffordable such as 3-D printers, digital fabrication machines, and computer-aided design software.

This bill establishes the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) in order to provide matching funds to local governments, nonprofits, and other eligible applicants for the establishment or expansion of makerspaces in the state.

Under this program, a wide range of technology improvements could be expected – from health care equipment to computer-assisted design to small-scale manufacturing technologies. The flexibility in the grant program could spark innovations that match needs of local employers or harness regional interests from different parts of the state.

The bill could spark economic development and promote diverse and vibrant business communities within our counties. This in turn creates jobs, contributes to enhancing quality of life, and expands the local tax base – enabling counties to better provide core services for Maryland families and businesses.

SB 577 creates an efficient and effective system for leveraging state and local resources to support creative enterprises in Maryland. Accordingly, MACo urges a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 577.

SB0577 -02.23.21 Makerspace Initiative Pilot Progr

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Position: FAV



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 577 -- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT --
MAKERSPACE INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM**

Senators McCray and Edwards

February 23, 2021

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO**

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

Position: Support

Senate Bill 577 establishes the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO). The pilot program would award financial assistance for the establishment or expansion of makerspaces for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024. The bill requires the Governor to appropriate at least \$300,000 annually for the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program.

A makerspace is a collaborative work space for making, learning, exploring, and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. Makerspaces provide a tangible economic development and workforce training benefits because they provide students with access to experts in a variety of fields meant to nurture an entrepreneurial spirit that is so important in a modern economy. Providing students with new opportunities to learn and innovate through 21st century skills and training, including the use of real world applications for classroom concepts, is paramount. Makerspaces accomplish this by providing young people with future employment opportunities to either create new companies or find employment in a multitude of creative workplaces.

This bill is consistent with a key tenet in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth:

Strategic and effective investments in business growth. The State must commit to substantive strategic investments, leveraged with capital assets, to nurture business and job growth. Investments should include competitive and effective tax credits, business development incentives, and tactical initiatives to nurture private investments in industry growth.

This bill is also consistent with the GBC's legislative priorities for 2021:

Strengthen the education and workforce systems to prioritize equity, accountability, and alignment with Maryland's high-growth industry sectors. Preparing the workforce to be successful in tomorrow's economy requires innovative thinking, industry-specific training programs, and career pathways. Policymakers should enact legislation that ensures the state's workforce has well-trained workers at all skill levels.

Advocate for inclusive policies and programs that strengthen economic competitiveness and job creation. Support a strong and inclusive economic development ecosystem that improves the business climate, creates jobs, and cultivates entrepreneurship.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 577.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 66-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

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SB577 Testimony_Open Works_2021.pdf

Uploaded by: Holman, Will

Position: FAV

**Testimony Presented to the House Ways and Means Committee
SB577 – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program
Feb. 23, 2021**

Open Works is a nonprofit makerspace located in central Baltimore with a mission to make tools, technology, and the knowledge to use them accessible to all.

Open Works has quickly grown into a national leader in the maker movement, setting new precedents on the ability for makerspaces to deliver economic impact; diversifying a field that has been historically unrepresentative of minorities and women; and delivering high-quality educational programming in fabrication, design, and entrepreneurship to learners of all ages. In a field without widely documented best practices, Open Works has developed a valuable set of operational competencies that can help other municipalities in Maryland derive similar economic and educational benefits from makerspaces.

Additionally, in March 2020, Open Works stood up an emergency manufacturing project to combat the emerging Covid-19 pandemic. This project, called Makers Unite, eventually harnessed the power of 388 volunteers across the state who 3D printed parts for face shields at home and shipped them to Open Works for assembly, sanitizing, packing, and distribution. Over 56 days of manufacturing, Makers Unite produced 28,270 units of PPE at a time when normal supply chains were overwhelmed, going to clients such as the University of Maryland Medical Systems, the ATF, the Amtrak Police, and the USDA. We have reactivated this emergency manufacturing capacity just recently, making desks for low-income at-home learners. This emergency manufacturing capacity, powered by advanced digital design and fabrication equipment, is critical to preparing Maryland for the next disaster, whatever it may be. Establishing more makerspaces around the state will allow for the rapid spin-up of production to meet local needs.

The proposed legislation creates a non-lapsing fund to be administered by TEDCO that would support the dissemination of Open Works' best practices to other makerspaces and municipalities establishing makerspaces in the State of Maryland. This will help other new organizations increase their ability to deliver high-quality services to communities in need, quickly scale their audience, and produce sustainable, grassroots economic growth. Further, this bill will help ensure the financial viability of public-facing makerspaces in Maryland by providing operational support that can be leveraged for greater growth, productivity, and private fundraising.

For these reasons, Open Works encourages a favorable vote on SB577.

SB0577_Testimony_Nation of Makers.pdf

Uploaded by: Jones-Davis, Dorothy

Position: FAV

Dorothy Jones-Davis, Ph.D
Executive Director
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**NATION OF
MAKERS**

Testimony Presented to the House Ways and Means Committee

SB0577 - Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

February 23, 2021

Nation of Makers is a national nonprofit, located in Silver Spring, MD, committed to supporting America's maker organizations through community building, resource sharing, and advocacy. Much of the work we do takes place locally, on the state and regional level, supporting local maker organizations and ecosystems to enhance the impact of the maker movement nationally. Our Nation of Makers' Champions program identifies local leaders who are championing the maker movement in their region, and supports them as they foster a local ecosystem that not only furthers the maker movement, but also the economic, social, and cultural impact that maker organizations have on the local economy. In support of our mission, we are proud to partner with local maker organizations, such as Open Works, who are having a significant economic/social/cultural impact within their community, to create opportunities for all Americans to succeed through making where they live.

Open Works, in particular, has quickly grown into a national leader in the maker movement. This impactful makerspace has set a new precedent for the ability of makerspaces to deliver economic impact, diversified a field that has historically low representation of ethnic and racial minorities and women, and delivered high-quality educational programming in fabrication, design, and entrepreneurship to learners of all ages and backgrounds in Maryland. In a field with limited documented best practices, Open Works has developed a valuable set of operational competencies that can help other municipalities in Maryland derive similar economic, social, and educational benefits from the makerspaces within their community.

Additionally, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Open Works has demonstrated the tremendous capacity and value of local makerspaces to serve their communities. Facing unprecedented medical supply shortages, Maryland found itself in a similar situation as the rest of the United States. Makers, makerspaces, and maker groups responded across the country to fill critical supply

shortages and to provide PPE for healthcare and essential workers, and our most vulnerable communities in need - producing and distributing over 37 million units of medical supplies domestically within the United States. I'm proud to report that, as a part of this incredible effort, Open Works, through its Makers Unite program, produced 28,270 face shields over 55 days for over 100 Maryland clients, from local hospitals to federal agencies.

The proposed legislation creates a non-lapsing fund to be administered by TEDCO that would support the dissemination of Open Works' best practices to other makerspaces and municipalities establishing makerspaces in the State of Maryland. This legislation will help other new organizations increase their ability to deliver high-quality just-in-time services to communities in need, quickly scale their audience, and produce sustainable, grassroots economic growth. Furthermore, this bill will help ensure the financial viability of public-facing makerspaces in Maryland by providing operational support that can be leveraged for greater growth, productivity, and private fundraising.

We are proud of the work that Open Works is doing within the great state of Maryland, and we are excited for the promise of SB0577 and the positive economic impact it will have on the entire state. For these reasons, Nation of Makers encourages a favorable vote on SB0577.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Jones-Davis', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Dorothy Jones-Davis, PhD
Executive Director, Nation of Makers

SB 577 testimony-makerspace -TEDCO.pdf

Uploaded by: LeMaile-Stovall, Troy

Position: FAV



**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**SENATE BILL 577 –
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MAKERSPACE INITIATIVE
PILOT PROGRAM**

POSITION: SUPPORT

FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) is dedicated to economic growth through the fostering of an inclusive entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. TEDCO discovers, invests in, and helps build great Maryland based technology companies. Recognizing its importance to entrepreneurs in Baltimore, TEDCO has partnered with Open Works for the last several years. TEDCO has been pleased to support its entrepreneurship efforts by providing support and mentorship for Open Works' EnterpRISE Venture Competition – a pitch competition and business boot camp for early-stage businesses and start-ups that require access to advanced fabrication technologies to manufacture innovative prototypes and products.

Open Works has quickly grown into a national leader in the maker movement, delivering high-quality educational programming in fabrication, design, and entrepreneurship to learners of all ages. It offers access to innovative technologies and production tools that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive to many entrepreneurs. Coppin State University's Center for Strategic Ingepreneurship (CSI) conducted a comprehensive economic impact study on Open Works since its founding in 2016. It concluded that Open Works has created 252 direct and indirect jobs in Baltimore City and across the State; while demonstrating national leadership in diversity and inclusion indicators.

Senate Bill 577 creates a pilot program to award financial assistance to a local government or nonprofit who seek to establish or expand a makerspace in the State. The bill would enable Open Works to use its best practices and its valuable set of operational competencies to help other communities in Maryland derive similar economic and educational benefits from makerspaces. **For these reasons, TEDCO encourages a favorable report on Senate Bill 577.**

SB577 - Economic Development - Makerspace Initiati

Uploaded by: Matthews, Dakota

Position: FAV



John Hartline, Chairman

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Charlotte Davis, Executive Director

Testimony in Support of
Senate Bill 577 - Economic Development - Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program
Finance Committee
February 23, 2021

The Rural Maryland Council **Supports** SB577 - Economic Development - Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program. The bill intends to encourage growth and development of makerspaces throughout the state of Maryland. This would be accomplished by establishing the Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in the Maryland Technology Development Corporation. The Corporation will administer the program and partner with the Open Works Center for Advanced Fabrication Technologies in Baltimore City to provide technical assistance to nonprofit entities seeking to establish makerspaces in the state. Additionally, the Corporation will provide financial assistance to eligible applicants for the development or expansion of makerspaces in the state.

Makerspaces provide educational, professional, and developmental opportunities to members of all ages, and are especially helpful for new and small businesses. Some of these makerspaces, such as Openworks in Baltimore City, include access to Wi-Fi, storage lockers, and a personal mailing address. Other facilities include 3D printing, a digital fabrication shop, metal shop, woodworking shop, cut and sew studio, computer lab, and facilities for electronic fabrication. In addition to the facilities and tools, makerspaces may also provide classes for youth, adults and seniors. School systems and universities can also benefit from makerspaces. For example, Western Maryland Works has collaborated with the Allegany College of Maryland to host the college's Advanced Manufacturing, Industrial Maintenance, and Welding programs. M4Reactor collaborated with Wor-Wic Community College for a workforce training program that resulted in 77% of the students finding employment. Other Makerspaces provide science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) based classes for children as young as eight years old.

Makerspaces provide access to facilities that many would otherwise go without. These facilities give opportunities to individuals and small businesses that do not have the ability or the finances to access the resources they need to start or grow their ideas. By allowing many people to use the tools and facilities, it allows for the prices to be more affordable for small business and individuals who have not yet developed the finances to have their own materials. Promoting the growth of these local businesses also results in the production of more American made materials and the creation of more jobs as these businesses expand.

During the pandemic, many makerspaces were required to close their doors to the public as public safety restrictions were implemented. Some of these makerspaces took this opportunity to use their facilities to help their communities by creating and distributing personal protection equipment. M4Reactor, a makerspace in Salisbury, began making ear savers for masks and custom acrylic shields. Open Works of Baltimore City also took the opportunity to use their facilities to make over 28,000 face shields. The Rural Maryland Council has provided numerous grants to makerspaces across the State through the Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Fund because of their positive community impacts. The Rural Maryland Council respectfully asks for your **Favorable** support of Senate Bill 577.

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) is an independent state agency governed by a nonpartisan, 40-member board that consists of inclusive representation from the federal, state, regional, county and municipal governments, as well as the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. We bring together federal, state, county, and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to identify challenges unique to rural communities and to craft public policy, programmatic or regulatory solutions.

"A Collective Voice for Rural Maryland"

SB 577 Testimony Economic Development - Makerspac

Uploaded by: McCray, Cory

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
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Budget and Taxation Committee

Capital Budget Subcommittee

Health and Human Services Subcommittee

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes on Senate Bill 577

Bill Title: Economic Development - Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program

Hearing Date: February 23, 2021 – Finance

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee:

I write to you today in support of SB 577. Open Works has quickly grown into a national leader in the maker movement, setting new precedents on the ability for makerspaces to deliver economic impact; diversifying a field that has been historically unrepresentative of minorities and women; and delivering high-quality educational programming in fabrication, design, and entrepreneurship to learners of all ages. In a field without widely documented best practices, Open Works has developed a valuable set of operational competencies that can help other municipalities in Maryland derive similar economic and educational benefits from makerspaces.

The proposed legislation creates a non-lapsing fund to be administered by TEDCO that would support the dissemination of Open Works' best practices to other makerspaces and municipalities establishing makerspaces in the State of Maryland. This will help other new organizations increase their ability to deliver high-quality services to communities in need, quickly scale their audience, and produce sustainable, grassroots economic growth. Further, this bill will help ensure the financial viability of public-facing makerspaces in Maryland by providing operational support that can be leveraged for greater growth, productivity, and private fundraising. For these reasons, I encourage a favorable report on SB 577.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory V. McCray".

Cory V. McCray
State Senator

Ron's SB577 Senate Legislative Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Williams, Ronald

Position: FAV



College of Business

Mission: CSU College of Business provides quality business education, inspires learners, and launches business careers as a path to lifelong success.

Testimony Presented to the Senate Finance Committee SB577 – Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program February 23, 2021

The Coppin State University (CSU) has a 121-year legacy as a community-centric institution of higher education in Baltimore City. The CSU College of Business is a vital contributor to the institution's leadership in value-add education.

Coppin's commitment to community engagement led to the establishment of a formal collaboration with Open Works in 2016. Our success is evidenced by the widely read and cited 2019 maker industry report, "Turning Makerspaces into Greater Places: Organizational Assessment and Economic Impact Study." The social and economic impact of Open Works was further demonstrated when the global pandemic revealed deficits in the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) for healthcare workers. Coppin State's 2020 case study entitled "A Makerspace's Rapid Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic," told the story of their application of Agile manufacturing techniques, resulting in the production of 28,000 face shields in 56 days. The study also revealed the ability of Open Works to generate a wide network of community volunteerism and support.

The Open Works story and best practices constitute a narrative that will be valuable to others. The non-lapsing fund administered by TEDCO will facilitate the sharing of best practices with other makerspaces and municipalities in the State of Maryland. The operational support provided by successful passage of this bill will help ensure the sustainability of makerspaces throughout the State.

For these reasons, the Coppin State University College of Business encourages a favorable vote on SB SB577.

SB 577 Makerspace Initiative Pilot (McCray and Edw

Uploaded by: Wilkins, Barbara

Position: INFO



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor

DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 577 Economic Development-Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program (McCray and Edwards)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 23, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Finance and Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 577 mandates an annual appropriation in the amount of \$450,000 in FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025 to fund a Makerspace Initiative Pilot Program in TEDCO. Annual allocations are specified as follows: up to \$100,000 for technical assistance to be provided by Open Works Baltimore; \$50,000 for TEDCO's administrative costs; \$50,000 to establish a Makerspace Program with Western Maryland Works; and the remaining \$250,000 to be distributed among up to four counties not served by Western Maryland Works (with a maximum grant of \$100,000 for any county per fiscal year, unless approved by the TEDCO Board). Grant recipients, which include a local government, an entity designated by a local government, or nonprofit, are to provide matching funds or in-kind contributions.

EXPLANATION: The Department of Budget and Management's focus is not on the underlying policy proposal being advanced by the legislation, but rather on the \$450,000 mandated appropriation in FY 2023, FY 2024, and FY 2025.

DBM has the responsibility of submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually, which requires spending allocations for FY 2022 to be within the official revenues estimates approved by the Board of Revenue Estimates in December 2020.

Economic conditions remain precarious as a result of COVID-19, making revenue predictions for the remainder of FY 2021 and FY 2022 highly volatile. Many individuals and households are unemployed or underemployed, with many industry sectors operating at much less than 100% capacity. Federal stimulus programs are providing much needed relief, but the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present a significant budgetary vulnerability.

The General Assembly and Administration have successfully enacted the Governor's emergency Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries, Entrepreneurs, and Families Act (SB 496 RELIEF Act), which provides \$1.2 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief for Maryland working families, small businesses, and those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is incumbent upon us to allow the impact of this unprecedented relief package on the State's economy to take effect. Further mandated spending increases need to be reevaluated within the context of an ongoing pandemic.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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