



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Acting Director of Government Affairs*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

MIA R. GOGEL  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 453**

**TITLE:**                Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program

**SPONSOR:**            Senator McCray

**COMMITTEE:**        Finance

**POSITION:**          **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                February 15, 2022

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 453– Economic Development – Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program. This legislation would establish the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO).

Makerspaces are modern hubs for innovation and economic development. They provide the equipment, training, and facilities for individuals to fabricate products, brainstorm with colleagues, and launch small businesses for a low fee. These spaces reduce overhead by providing equipment and offering training services and workspaces, allowing the next generation of entrepreneurs to create and innovate together. The revenues generated by makerspaces, along with the economic and workforce development benefits they provide, brings exciting new opportunities for the states and jurisdictions that invest in them.

SB 453 would create the Maryland Makerspace Initiative Program within TEDCO, which would provide funding and technical assistance for the establishment, expansion, and operation of a makerspace. This critical assistance would promote the establishment of programs to support individuals who have suffered from waning manufacturing jobs, become unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, or who have an interest in turning their hobby into a marketable business. This bill would further Baltimore County’s efforts to invest in business ownership and workforce development.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 453. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).