



POSITION STATEMENT

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**SENATE BILL 191 – MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – TRANSPARENCY AND
EFFICIENCY IN REPORTING ACT
Departmental - Commerce**

January 18, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 191 would streamline the Department of Commerce's reporting requirements by repealing existing individual program reports and centralizing the incentive program reports into the mandated Jobs Development Act Report.

Current law requires the Department of Commerce to submit over fifty separate reports to the General Assembly annually. Although they are not identical, mandated reports are often substantively similar and potentially duplicative. Program activity for a single program can be reported four or five times in different reports to the Governor, General Assembly and public throughout the course of a calendar year. For economic development financing and tax credit programs, there are different statutory reporting requirements for the same economic development programs in different sections of the Economic Development Article. The current reporting requirements are unnecessarily inefficient.

The GBC supports Senate Bill 191 because it would eliminate redundancy and clarify the Department of Commerce's reporting requirements in a common sense fashion. By repealing mandated reporting in the enabling statute for each economic development financing and tax credit program and centralizing reporting requirements within Section 2.5-109 of the Economic Development Article, the Department of Commerce can present the required information in the most efficient manner. It would also set up a mechanism when a new program is created or a program sunsets to automatically update the reporting requirements with no need to create a new report or eliminate an existing report. These changes would ensure reporting requirements are clear and that the public is able to access more uniform information for all Department of Commerce programs.

Beyond simple efficiency, streamlining this process for the Department of Commerce would allow them to devote more time and resources to partner with the private sector and local governments to strengthen Maryland's economy.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 191.

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 67-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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