

Date: March 27, 2024

Committee: House Economic Matters

Bill Title: SB288 - State Board of Individual Tax Preparers – Sunset Extension and Report

Re: **Favorable**

SB288, as originally submitted by the Maryland Department of Labor (MDL), would have extended by ten (10) years the sunset date for the State Board of Barbers, from 2026 through 2036. In the version passed by the Senate, however, **the extension language was amended** to extend the Board for one (1) year through July 1, 2027. Additionally, the amended bill now requires that, on or before July 1, 2025, MDL shall submit a report to the Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee (JAEC) with information regarding the State Board of Barbers as determined by the JAEC.

The regulation of registered individual tax preparers is handled by the State Board of Individual Tax Preparers. Maryland requires that an individual who prepares taxes must be registered with the Board unless they are a CPA, an IRS Enrolled Agent, an attorney in good standing, or employees of state, local, and federal government who perform tax return services in accordance with their official duties.

It is necessary to extend the Maryland Board of Individual Tax Preparers for the safety and welfare of all Maryland citizens by ensuring that individual tax preparers are registered and held in compliance by the Board. Currently, the Board is working with the Comptroller and various industry stakeholders to identify any fraudulent preparers and enforce the laws of the state.

The Department respectfully requests a favorable report by the committee on SB288.