



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: March 28, 2024
BILL NO: House Bill 1487
BILL TITLE: Maryland Entertainment Council - Alterations
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports House Bill 1487 - Maryland Entertainment Council – Alterations as amended.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1487 codifies the Maryland Entertainment Council, originally created in CH 452, Acts of 2023 to be the Maryland Entertainment Industry Council (Council) within Commerce. This bill also alters the membership of the Council to include the Secretaries of Commerce, Housing and Community Development, and Labor, or their designees. House Bill 1487 further expands the membership of the Council by adding additional members with specified experience in the film, television and entertainment industries.

Background:

CH 452, Acts of 2023 established the Maryland Entertainment Council to assess Maryland’s existing assets, opportunities, and competitive position with the film, television, and entertainment industry, study related topics, and make recommendations. An interim report was submitted in January 2024, and the final report is currently due September 1, 2024, with the Council to then complete its work and sunset June 30, 2025.

Rationale:

Due to ongoing labor negotiations in the entertainment industry in 2023, the Maryland Entertainment Council was not named and therefore not able to begin its work until early 2024. This delay caused the need for an extension of reporting timelines for the Council. Additionally, during the time since the Council was initially created, Commerce and the Governor’s Appointed Senior Advisor on Film, Television, and Entertainment have begun to study the State’s existing assets in this area and have identified alterations needed to expand the scope and expertise of the Council. This legislation will codify the Council and enable them to continue evaluating and making recommendations regarding Maryland’s competitiveness in the film, television and entertainment industries.

Formally establishing the Council and eliminating the sunset as well as expanding the Council to provide additional knowledge and expertise will allow the Council to better be able to advise the Governor on ways to grow the State’s entertainment industry as well as improve Maryland’s competitive position compared to other states. House Bill 1487 will also allow the Council to continue to recommend improvements and evaluate any policy changes made in future years.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1487.