

JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK

*Legislative District 21
Prince George's and
Anne Arundel Counties*

—
Chair

Health and Government
Operations Committee

—

Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 241
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3502 · 301-858-3502
800-492-7122 Ext. 3502
Joseline.Pena.Melnyk@house.state.md.us

—
District Office

P. O. Box 1251
College Park, Maryland 20741-1251

February 11, 2025

HB 825 - Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Board – Membership – Alteration

SPONSOR TESTIMONY: Delegate Joseline A. Peña-Melnyk (Favorable)

Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present House Bill 825, a straightforward but important bill that strengthens the Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Board. This bill adds the Comptroller or the Comptroller's designee as a member of the Board, which oversees the Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Program and Trust. This program plays a vital role in ensuring that certain private-sector employers offer their employees a retirement savings option. Businesses that participate not only help their employees build financial security but also benefit from an exemption from the State's annual business filing fee, making this a win-win for both employers and workers.

The Maryland Small Business Retirement Savings Board consists of 11 members, including three members appointed by the Senate President, three by the Speaker of the House, three by the Governor, the State Treasurer, and the Secretary of Labor. HB 825 simply adds the Comptroller to this Board, aligning with previous legislative efforts that enabled the Comptroller's Office to collaborate with the program and promote it to small businesses. Given the Comptroller's role in tax collection, financial oversight, revenue forecasting, and fiscal accountability, their expertise would strengthen the Board's ability to ensure effective management and implementation of the program.

Maryland would also be following the example of states like California, Illinois, New Jersey, and Connecticut, which have all included their state comptroller in similar retirement savings boards. The addition of the Comptroller enhances financial oversight and allows for better coordination with state agencies while expanding outreach to small businesses that could benefit from the program.

Importantly, this bill has no fiscal impact on the state. Additionally, the Senate crossfile has already passed the Senate unanimously, demonstrating broad bipartisan support for this practical and commonsense change. HB 825 is a simple but meaningful improvement that will help strengthen Maryland's retirement savings program and better serve small businesses and their employees.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a favorable report on HB 825. Thank you.