



## House Bill 297

**Position: Favorable**

Committee: Ways and Means

Date: February 11, 2026

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Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (“Maryland Chamber”) is a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and opportunity for all Marylanders.

House Bill 297 (“HB 297”) creates the MDiplomaWorks program, which would establish a fourth alternative diploma pathway for adult learners to demonstrate high school level proficiency through a combination of workforce and academic credentials.

The Maryland Chamber strongly supports job creation and economic mobility, and HB 297 will open doors for many of the 500,000+ Marylanders who do not have a high school diploma. By establishing the MDiplomaWorks program, HB 297 will create opportunities for more Marylanders to access training opportunities, career pathways, and high-paying careers. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on HB 297.**