



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

Senate Bill 223

Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families. Part of that work includes evaluating and maintaining the best approaches for business tax policies for the state.

Senate Bill 223 will create an independent commission tasked with studying and making recommendations for improving Maryland's revenue structure, reviewing the academic and economic research on state and local tax policies, and evaluating neighboring jurisdictions' tax policies. The commission will make recommendations to improve Maryland's competitiveness, and encourage business investment and employer growth.

Maryland's revenue structure should promote job growth and economic development while ensuring fairness, simplicity and transparency throughout all policies. This commission would bring about recommendations to create a stable, balanced and transparent business-friendly environment.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce has long been committed to and remains invested in promoting an innovative, pro-business climate throughout the state and fostering a robust economy. SB 223 furthers that goal and will provide meaningful feedback on improving Maryland's overall economic competitiveness. If the commission is established, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce would hope to become a partner in these discussions and provide input from our membership and the broader business community.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 223**.

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60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642