



LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

House Bill 804

Workgroup to Study Maryland's Emerging Digital Economy

House Economic Matters Committee

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Dear Chairman Davis 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 our work includes developing a workforce and talent pipeline that ensures Maryland's continued economic expansion.

House Bill 804 would establish a workgroup to Study Maryland's emerging digital economy. The workgroup will be tasked with examining existing academic research, data, statistics and industrial case studies and making recommendations to the General Assembly that manufacturing organizations may use to develop their workforce to meet the skill demands of the future.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports the goals and initiatives outlined in HB 804, and we are actively participating in many of the areas specified by the legislation. Through the Maryland Chamber Foundation, we are engaged in initiatives including business education on workforce best practices, talent pipeline support, workforce development needs and establishing partnerships between businesses and schools to support underserved communities in career-focused education, licensure, CTE, apprenticeships and more¹. We look forward to sharing what we've learned in each of these areas with the workgroup, and to working together to remove barriers and increase access to quality workforce development and talent pipeline opportunities for manufacturers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully request a **favorable report** on HB 804.

¹ <https://mdchamber.org/foundation/workforce-development/>