



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Favorable**

**Senate Bill 43**

**Licensing – Fingerprint Requirement**

**Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

Dear Chairman Pinsky 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.

Small businesses are the driving force for job creation, and our entire state benefits when our small businesses succeed. Small businesses are an integral part our work at the Maryland Chamber, and our efforts affect no other group more drastically. In addition, our state's overall success in the global marketplace is directly tied to Maryland's ability to foster a competitive and favorable climate for small businesses, a sector that makes up almost 92 percent of the state's registered companies.

SB 43 exempts an applicant for a business license who has previously submitted a set of digital fingerprints as part of a previous license application in Maryland from the requirement of submitting an additional set of fingerprints.

SB 43 will provide a cost savings to either the employer or employee in a business application process. While not required by law, it is common practice for an employer to pay the cost of an applicant's fingerprinting for the application for a business license. SB 43 would exempt an employee from the fingerprint requirement if they have previously submitted a set of digital fingerprints in Maryland for an application for any license, providing a direct cost savings to the employer.

Conversely, Maryland law does not require an employer to pay business license application expenses, which means those costs can be passed along directly to the license applicant. In this case, the cost savings provided by the fingerprint requirement exemption outlined in SB 43 would directly benefit the license applicant.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on **SB 43**.

**MDCHAMBER.ORG**

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