



**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Favorable**

**Senate Bill 868—Apprenticeship Maryland 2030**

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

**Tuesday, March 10, 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. Part of our work includes developing a workforce and talent pipeline that ensures Maryland's continued economic expansion.

Senate Bill 868 would establish the Career and Technology Education Committee, and would require the Committee to establish a statewide goal that on or before July 1, 2030, 100% of high school students that complete a CTE program will have earned the high school graduation level of a registered apprenticeship or another industry-recognized occupational credential. The Committee shall also work to redesign high school and community college CTE programs to maximize their role as related instruction for registered apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeships are a critically important tool for workforce development in Maryland. These voluntary, industry-sponsored opportunities afford jobseekers the ability to gain the high-level skills and technical knowledge required in certain industries. They do this through supervised, on-the-job training under the guidance of a skilled journey person. Employers benefit from these opportunities by providing the skills training needed to meet their workforce needs for the future.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports any effort to expand workforce development offerings in the State, including through enhanced CTE and apprenticeship programs. 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 more<sup>1</sup>.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully request a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 868.