



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

House Bill 185 - Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness

Ways and Means Committee

February 4, 2020

SUPPORT

House Bill 185 establishes the Commission on Tax Policy, Reform, and Fairness to be staffed by the Department of Legislative Services (DLS). The Commission is charged with studying the current revenue structure of the State, review research on tax policy, and review economic competitiveness with neighboring jurisdictions. Additionally, the Commission must make recommendations regarding changes to the State's revenue structure that promote job growth and economic development; ensure fairness, simplicity, and transparency; provide a stable, balanced, and reliable revenue stream, while not reducing services; and create a business-friendly environment.

Over the last few years, the state has been developing substantive plans for many important issues. Examples include a 10-year plan for our educational system and a plan to ensure we are responding to the climate crisis. These are both imperative and important goals and ones that the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) strongly supports. Education directly ties to workforce and talent; MCCC created the Green Business Certification program 12 years ago with the Montgomery County Department of Environment understanding the need for companies to green their practices.

With this in mind, it is incredibly important to invest in and create an economic growth plan to support these initiatives. The Chamber believes this Commission and its recommendations will inform residents, activists, and policymakers as to how to strategically and effectively grow our tax base ensuring a strong economic future for decades to come.

For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber supports House Bill 185 and respectfully urges a favorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

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