



**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Unfavorable**

**Senate Bill 728**

**Labor and Employment – Worker Safety and Health**

**– Injury and Illness Prevention Program**

**Senate Finance Committee**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

Dear Chairwoman Kelley 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 5,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

As introduced, SB 728 seeks to require employers with 10 or more employees, or whose rate of work-related injury and illness exceeds the average incidence rate of all industries in the State, to develop and implement a health and safety committee. Additionally, the committee would be required to meet at minimum quarterly, conduct inspections of the workplace, and develop worker safety and health plans.

Senate Bill 728 imposes a one-size fits all (but the very smallest employer) requirement on employers that is not necessary. The Maryland Chamber of Commerce is supportive of the intent to improve workplace safety; however, many workplaces are not inherently unsafe or require such specific workplace safety efforts – such as office environments. This bill imposes costs in terms of time and effort with very little to no benefit. Many high-risk industries already have industry-specific workplace safety standards in place. Further, it would not seem efficient or logical to require individuals with no safety background, experience, or expertise, to serve on a committee with the charge of developing safety and health plans. At a minimum, these efforts must be done by experts in the field of workplace safety.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report** on SB 728.