



To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

House Bill 797 - Procurement – Small Business Reserve Program – Administration and Application

Health and Government Operations Committee

March 3, 2021

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), as the voice of Montgomery County business, supports House Bill 797. This bill builds upon the Governor's 01.01.2021.01 Executive Order and aims to increase small business participation in state procurement. Further, House Bill 797 eliminates the \$50,000 floor threshold so any purchases or contracts up to \$500,000 shall be designated for the Small Business Reserve program. The legislation is another way to help small businesses. It also asks the Small Business Reserve Program to provide technical training where needed and to collect data regarding the State's utilization of small business reserve.

Over the last 7 months, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) has been advocating at the local, state, and federal level on behalf of our members. MCCC has also hosted webinars on best practices in this new COVID-19 world. And through these webinars, and in advocating for our members, what we are hearing is essential to a business' survival is the permanency of many Executive Orders that were implemented during the pandemic.

This legislation acknowledges that small-business participation in the State's procurements should be increased and that the purposes of Maryland's procurement law are to ensure fair and equitable treatment of all persons who deal with the procurement system. Further, participation in the State's procurements foster broad competition through support of free enterprise.

Maryland small businesses employ 1.2 million people and are the backbone and leading creator of jobs in Maryland's economy. Any additional support for these key small businesses to survive the public health emergency and continue to employ our neighbors and grow our economy is essential. For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber supports House Bill 797 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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