



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

House Bill 360

Income Tax – Angel Investor Tax Credit Program

House Ways & Means Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Kaiser 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 growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families. Part of that work includes support for sustainable solutions that drive Maryland's future economy, including education, talent pipeline, innovation, and economic diversity.

HB 360 seeks to provide tax incentives to "Angel Investors" who invest in early-stage ventures in Maryland. By doing this, HB 360 will incentive the much-needed early-stage funding that startup companies need to grow their businesses, create jobs, and enhance our state's economy. HB 360 is designed to encourage investment in startups in those industries that are vital to Maryland's future economic success including health care, cyber-security and other niche tech areas. The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports any effort to encourage business development in our state, particularly to those getting off the ground and choosing to locate in our state.

Furthermore, COVID-19 has had a tremendous, detrimental impact on Maryland's economy. The Comptroller's Office has estimated that approximately 30,000 businesses have either closed or will close permanently due to the pandemic. As a means of economic recovery, HB 360 is a great step toward helping replace some of the permanent job loss Maryland's economy has experienced.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on **HB 360**.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

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