



**MARYLAND**  
Chamber of Commerce

**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Favorable**

**House Bill 255**

**Maryland Internship Opportunities Program – Creation and Income Tax Credit**

**House Ways and Means Committee**

**Tuesday, February 1, 2022**

Dear Chairwoman Atterbeary 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 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 255 establishes the Maryland Internship Opportunities Program which would provide students with internship opportunities with humanities-based businesses and would allow those employing interns within this program a credit against their state income tax.

Small businesses are the backbone of Maryland's economy, and many are struggling not only to recover from the pandemic but also to find qualified talent in this tight labor market. The Maryland Internship Opportunities Program would not only provide tax relief to recovering businesses but also incentivize them to hire interns.

HB 255 provides a modest, but much needed credit for businesses to claim against their State income tax (50% of the stipend not to exceed \$4,200 each year for each intern). By creating this credit, business owners will be further incentivized to hire interns, which benefits both the business and intern by creating a pipeline for talent and giving students much needed hands-on experience.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report** on HB 255, as it provides both additional tax relief and encourages business owners to expand their talent pool to students still in school.

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60 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis 21401 | 410-269-0642