



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 533

DATE: February 15, 2022

SPONSOR: Delegate Pena-Melnyk, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters

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POSITION: SUPPORT

Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and Registration – Immigrants

House Bill 533 would prohibit a State occupational or professional licensing board from denying an occupational or professional license, certification, or registration to an immigrant if the individual otherwise meets all educational, training, or professional requirements for licensure, certification, or registration.

In Maryland, it is all too common that immigrants making their home here have attained a high degree of educational and professional achievement but are under-employed and not utilizing their experience in the fields in which they are trained. One barrier for immigrant residents to fully participate in the workforce and employing their training is the requirement that some occupational licenses from the State are contingent on citizenship of the United States. House Bill 533 would ensure that citizenship in the United States is not a requirement for seeking an occupational or professional license in Maryland.

Montgomery County values the contributions of our immigrant residents to our workforce and communities and sees tremendous benefit to removing barriers to licensure for those seeking occupational licenses as well as those who will receive the services of a more linguistically and culturally appropriate workforce. Montgomery County respectfully urges the committee to issue a favorable report.