



## **HB1384 – Economic Development - Industry 4.0 Technology Grant Program (Maryland Manufacturing Innovation Act of 2022) - SUPPORT**

**Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee,**

The Printing & Graphics Association Mid-Atlantic (PGAMA) respectfully supports HB1384. The printing & graphics industry in Maryland encompasses roughly 16,000 employees across 500 companies and is among the largest manufacturing sectors in the state. We are in the midst of what has been dubbed the "Fourth Industrial Revolution." Interconnectivity and automation have transformed the manufacturing sector leading to an expansion in efficiency and production through the utilization of "industry 4.0" technology. Examples of this include advanced analytics, predictive maintenance, 3D printing, smart sensors, and a whole host of others.

The printing & graphics industry has been a leader in technological modernization as we've transitioned from an analog to a digital world. We've had no choice. The challenge is that with technology advancing so rapidly, equipment is not only becoming more expensive, but has a shorter effective life span and new investment is required on an accelerated basis in order to remain competitive. This legislation will provide more opportunities for medium to small manufacturing businesses to make investments in this necessary technology.

An interim workgroup entitled Transforming Manufacturing in a Digital Economy Workgroup identified that investments in Industry 4.0 technology is a key driver in maintaining a competitive manufacturing sector in the State of Maryland. Our members have face unprecedented challenges over the past couple years due to the global pandemic. We our certainly not alone in that. The economic effects of the pandemic have created urgent need for capital investment and this legislation is a piece of the solution. This legislation would be a positive step in expressing to the printing and graphics industry that the state of Maryland supports the growth of technology and our businesses.

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