



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Favorable

House Bill 494 - Labor and Employment - Right to Work

House Economic Matters Committee

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Dear Chairman Wilson 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 6,400 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

As introduced, HB 494 specifies that an employer may not require, as a condition of employment or continued employment, that an employee or prospective employee join or remain a member of a labor organization; pay any dues, fees, assessments or other charges to a labor organization; or pay any charity or another third party an equivalent amount in lieu of a payment to a labor organization.

This bill repeals various provisions of state law that authorize an employer, including the state and units of government, to require that an employee pay a fee (service, maintenance or representation fee) to a labor organization to which the employee is not a member. Furthermore, this bill allows an employee, or prospective employee, to pursue a civil cause of action in circuit court against an employer who violates the bill's provisions.

The Maryland Chamber of Commerce values employee choice, and this bill furthers this philosophy by guaranteeing the employee a right to freedom of association and their choice to participate in union representation or not. Forcing employees or prospective employees into unionization and payment for dues or fees as a condition of employment violates this principle and ultimately drives up labor costs in a competitive business environment.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on **HB 494**.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

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