

SB0209_FAV_MTC_Eco. Dev. - MD Eco. Dev. Comm. - AI

Uploaded by: Drew Vetter

Position: FAV



MARYLAND TECH COUNCIL

TO: The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair
Members, Senate Finance Committee
Chair, Senate Finance Committee (Maryland Department of Commerce)

FROM: Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone

DATE: February 6, 2024

RE: **SUPPORT** – Senate Bill 209 – *Economic Development – Maryland Economic Development Commission – Alterations*

The Maryland Tech Council (MTC) is a collaborative community, actively engaged in building stronger life science and technology companies by supporting the efforts of our individual members who are saving and improving lives through innovation. We support our member companies who are driving innovation through advocacy, education, workforce development, cost savings programs, and connecting entrepreneurial minds. The valuable resources we provide to our members help them reach their full potential, making Maryland a global leader in the life sciences and technology industries. On behalf of MTC, we submit this letter of **support** for Senate Bill 209.

Senate Bill 209 makes several alterations to the Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDC), including a requirement that the Commission include at least one representative from the life sciences industry and the manufacturing industry. The MEDC is charged with a number of important duties, including advising the Governor and Secretary of Commerce on the creation and implementation of the State's economic development strategic plan. This plan will have significant downstream impacts on the State's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem. We commend the Department of Commerce for seeking to expand industry input into this process.

For these reasons, the MTC requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 209.

For more information call:

Andrew G. Vetter
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
J. Steven Wise
Danna L. Kauffman
Christine K. Krone
410-244-7000

SB 209_Commerce_MEDC Alterations_Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Kevin Anderson

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Kevin A. Anderson | Secretary of Commerce
Signe Pringle | Deputy Secretary of Commerce

DATE: February 6, 2024
BILL NO: Senate Bill 209
BILL TITLE: Economic Development – Maryland Economic Development Commission – Alterations
COMMITTEE: Senate Finance
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports Senate Bill 209 - Economic Development – Maryland Economic Development Commission – Alterations.

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill 209 specifies that the Governor’s appointees to the Maryland Economic Development Commission (MEDC) shall include one representative of the life sciences industry and one representative of the manufacturing industry. The legislation also alters the current statutory responsibilities of the MEDC to match existing practices including repealing the requirement that the Office of International Trade report to MEDC two times a year and the requirement that the Maryland Tourism Development Board present its strategic plan to MEDC.

Background:

The mission of the MEDC is to establish economic development policy in the State and to oversee Commerce's efforts to support the creation, attraction and retention of businesses and jobs. Founded in 1995, the 25-voting member Commission draws upon the expertise of the State's business leaders to inform State economic development efforts by providing a comprehensive evaluation of the State's business climate and recommending to the Governor the policies, programs and spending priorities needed.

Rationale:

Commerce has several advisory boards and commissions in addition to the MEDC. Included among those are the Life Sciences Advisory Board (LSAB) and the Maryland Manufacturing Advisory Board (MMAB), both of which advise the Secretary on how to best support their respective key industries in the State. Adding a representative from the life sciences and manufacturing industries to the MEDC will improve collaboration and dissemination of information and ideas between these three entities. MEDC can use ideas generated by the industries to carry out its mission of establishing economic development policy in the State and to oversee the Department of Commerce's efforts to support the creation, attraction and retention of businesses and jobs.

Eliminating certain duties of the MEDC, specifically that they incorporate the strategic plan of the Maryland Port Administration developed for the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore into the economic development strategic plan, and that they seek contributions from the private sector to supplement economic development programs and financial incentives for businesses will

remove antiquated provisions that are no longer in practice. These requirements are being repealed to match the existing practice of the MEDC and allow them additional flexibility in setting the State's economic development strategic plan.

Finally, the requirement that Commerce's Office of International Trade present to the MEDC at least twice a year is the only such requirement of a Commerce unit, and the Department would prefer to have flexibility for the Office to present to the MEDC when there is a need and as requested. The requirement that the Maryland Tourism Development Board (MTDB) present its strategic plan and marketing plan to the MEDC is unnecessary since the MEDC does not have oversight over the MTDB.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 209.

SB0209-FIN-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SB0209

February 6, 2024

TO: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of Mayor's Office of Government Relations

RE: Senate Bill 209 – Maryland Economic Development Commission – Alterations

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 209.

SB 209 ensures full state representation and adds representation for the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry to the Maryland Economic Development Commission. The bill alterations will ensure the Commission's ability to develop policies which will support the Life Science Industry and the Manufacturing Industry, both of which are important growth industries for Maryland. Moreover, the proposed incorporation of the Maryland Port Administration's strategic plan for the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore into the Commission's economic development strategic plan will further bolster the capabilities of both the Life Sciences and Manufacturing sectors by encouraging the highest benefits of importing and exporting their materials and products. Alignment with the Port as an economic development asset is critical.

The Life Science and Manufacturing sectors will expand the Maryland job market, thereby creating high-quality jobs at every level. In addition, strong growth industries such as Life Science and Manufacturing will attract ancillary investment and similar businesses to Maryland.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on SB 209.

SB 215.pdf

Uploaded by: Stephen Primosch

Position: FAV



January 15, 2024

The Honorable, Pamela Beidle, Chair
Finance Committee
3 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 215 - Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses Account – Alterations

Dear Senator Beidle:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Senate Bill 215 Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Businesses Account (SMWOBA)– Alterations. Senate Bill 215 updates the statute governing the SMWOBA program, which provides capital in the form of loans to small, minority, and woman owned businesses throughout the State of Maryland. Specifically, the bill will allow for grants of up to \$10,000 to be issued in conjunction with a loan. This enhancement to the program should further help small business owners access capital to help start & grow businesses thus increasing the employee and tax base in Maryland.

As a fund manager for the SMWOBA program, the Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation has issued over \$20 million in loans to small, minority, and woman owned businesses throughout the state. These types of businesses face unique challenges when trying to access capital to start and grow their businesses. One of the main challenges for these types of small businesses is having the required equity injection to start or grow a business. The proposal enabling grants up to \$10,000 will help to bring these small businesses onto a more equal playing field. For these reasons, I support and respectfully urge the House Ways and Means Committee to act favorably upon Senate Bill 215.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Primosch", written over a horizontal line.

Stephen Primosch

Vice President, Financial Services