



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION

Letter of Information

House Bill 602

Employment Discrimination – Sexual Orientation

Senate Finance Committee

Thursday, March 21, 2024

Dear Chairwoman Beidle and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 6,800 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and recovery for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 602 would alter provisions of law prohibiting employment discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

To encourage businesses to grow and thrive in Maryland, we must enact policies that protect against employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the private and public sector. Currently, Maryland law provides protections from employment discrimination based on sexual orientation only. The passage HB 602 would align Maryland with fifteen other states and Washington D.C. that have implemented protections against both sexual orientation and gender identity employment discrimination.

The passage of HB 602 is imperative to enhance Maryland's workforce and to foster inclusive environments amongst Maryland businesses.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on HB 602.

MDCHAMBER.ORG

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