



HB 454 - Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force - Establishment

Committee: House Economic Matters Committee

Date: January 28, 2025

Position: Favorable with Amendments

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS HB 454 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This legislation, which creates a Task Force to study the use and regulation of blockchain technology and cryptocurrency in Maryland, could result in legislative recommendations that may impact Maryland's banking systems. Therefore, the Maryland Bankers Association is requesting an amendment to ensure that the MBA has a representative on the Task Force.

Cryptocurrency and blockchain technology have great potential but can also pose risk to consumers and the financial system when offered by institutions who do not have to meet the same rigorous regulatory standards as Maryland banks. As more Marylanders engage with these products, they will often look for trusted financial partners for advice and support. Maryland banks are continually evaluating ways to safely and responsibly allow customers to buy, sell, and hold digital assets through existing relationships. Having the Maryland Bankers Association serve on this Task Force will be a tremendous benefit to other stakeholders when determining the future of cryptocurrency and blockchain technology in the State.

Accordingly, MBA strongly urges the issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 454 **WITH AMENDMENTS**.

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing thousands of Marylanders and holding more than \$194 billion in deposits in almost 1,200 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.