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NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – [www.NFIB.com/Maryland](http://www.NFIB.com/Maryland)

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: NFIB – Maryland

DATE: February 12, 2025

RE: **OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 577** – Business Regulation – Miscellaneous State Business Licenses  
– Enforcement and Penalties

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB opposes House Bill 577 – legislation granting the Comptroller’s office authority to issue citations to enforce business licensing regulations. It also requires business owners to name a Maryland resident on a business application as the individual criminally and financially liable for these citations.

This bill is not needed. The Comptroller has the authority, through the rulemaking process, to require information the office deems necessary on a license application – see [Business Regulation Article §17-302 \(f\)](#).

Current law holds the “agent or officer of a corporation convicted of violating [the law] who actually engaged in the unlicensed business” is subject to any penalties. HB577 removes this provision creating a liability concern (Page 3, Lines 17-19).

NFIB feels the current law provides effective enforcement authority for the Comptroller to go after unlicensed businesses. For these reasons, **NFIB opposes HB577** and requests an unfavorable report.