

House Bill 701 – Oppose

**House Committee on Economic Matters
“Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers - Purchase, Use, and Sale - Prohibitions (Clean Air Quiet Communities Act)”**

Please return an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB0701.

The economy in Maryland is heading in a bad direction, so all legislation needs to be focused on job creation to help address these current trends.

The attached table contains population and employment information provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for the State of Maryland. There are many unfavorable trends that have a devastating impact on the economy:

- The population growth is slowing down; 2023 only grew by 5,203 people
- The percentage of Marylanders participating in the workforce has dropped from 69.5% to 67.5%
- Teenage and early 20s cohorts contracted, while 65 years and over cohort grew by 50%
- The state is rapidly aging

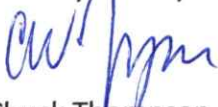
The trade-offs associated with this Bill are not employment friendly:

- Mandating technologies that require reinvestments will make it harder to maintain and expand the workforce, especially for small businesses and lower income contractors
- Reduced competition and options will lead to higher prices
- Less employment opportunities for unskilled workers delays the development of skills for higher paying positions and the beginning of wealth creation
- Jobs and sales will migrate to neighboring states; this means a lower base for income and sales taxes

A point will be reached when Marylanders say they've had enough and begin to begin to walk.

Please consider these and other unintended consequences of this Bill and return an UNFAVORABLE report for HB0701.

Thank you for your consideration,



Chuck Thompson
Pasadena, MD

Labor force participation rate by age group
ACS 1-Year Estimates

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change	
Population 16 years and over	4,596,659	4,642,826	4,697,087	4,739,307	4,775,143	4,814,546	4,819,956	4,855,374	4,852,950	4,862,424	Not Available due to COVID-19 disruptions	4,964,751	4,974,349	4,979,552	8.3%	
In labor force	3,193,408	3,200,873	3,229,761	3,250,380	3,249,757	3,238,521	3,277,687	3,294,443	3,283,636	3,279,799		3,304,168	3,332,616	3,360,696	5.2%	
Labor force participation rate	69.5%	68.9%	68.8%	68.6%	68.1%	67.3%	68.0%	67.9%	67.7%	67.5%			66.6%	67.0%	67.5%	
Population																
16 to 19 years	330,923	328,017	317,897	316,056	307,602	311,675	302,959	300,720	301,443	306,550	Not Available due to COVID-19 disruptions	312,864	308,331	314,408	-5.0%	
20 to 24 years	392,262	399,152	407,055	404,550	404,728	400,385	394,489	387,050	384,168	372,016		378,627	379,802	367,705	-6.3%	
25 to 64 years	3,163,222	3,183,898	3,209,454	3,224,833	3,240,642	3,255,501	3,246,060	3,265,018	3,236,298	3,223,971		3,269,877	3,243,437	3,230,801	2.1%	
65 years and over	710,252	731,759	762,681	793,868	822,171	846,985	876,448	902,586	931,041	959,887		1,003,383	1,042,779	1,066,638	50.2%	
Total	4,596,659	4,642,826	4,697,087	4,739,307	4,775,143	4,814,546	4,819,956	4,855,374	4,852,950	4,862,424	4,964,751	4,974,349	4,979,552	8.3%		
YoY Change		46,167	54,261	42,220	35,836	39,403	5,410	35,418	(2,424)	9,474		9,598		5,203		
In labor force																
16 to 19 years	131,886	128,057	123,873	121,154	113,234	113,650	116,141	116,678	113,029	116,850	Not Available due to COVID-19 disruptions	112,933	113,450	128,817	-2.3%	
20 to 24 years	301,079	308,167	305,008	305,058	302,381	299,371	297,202	290,179	291,654	289,322		280,776	291,073	280,640	-6.8%	
25 to 64 years	2,616,035	2,613,813	2,637,959	2,651,027	2,659,008	2,649,260	2,666,867	2,686,944	2,672,777	2,655,263		2,682,492	2,694,234	2,700,466	3.2%	
65 years and over	144,408	150,836	162,921	173,141	175,134	176,240	197,477	200,642	206,176	218,364		227,967	233,859	250,773	73.7%	
Total	3,193,408	3,200,873	3,229,761	3,250,380	3,249,757	3,238,521	3,277,687	3,294,443	3,283,636	3,279,799	3,304,168	3,332,616	3,360,696	5.2%		
YoY Change		7,465	28,888	20,619	(623)	(11,236)	39,166	16,756	(10,807)	(3,837)		28,448		28,080		
Labor force participation rate																
16 to 19 years	39.9%	39.0%	39.0%	38.3%	36.8%	36.5%	38.3%	38.8%	37.5%	38.1%		36.1%	36.8%	41.0%		
20 to 24 years	76.8%	77.2%	74.9%	75.4%	74.7%	74.8%	75.3%	75.0%	75.9%	77.8%		74.2%	76.6%	76.3%		
25 to 64 years	82.7%	82.1%	82.2%	82.2%	82.1%	81.4%	82.2%	82.3%	82.6%	82.4%		82.0%	83.1%	83.6%		
65 years and over	20.3%	20.6%	21.4%	21.8%	21.3%	20.8%	22.5%	22.2%	22.1%	22.7%		22.7%	22.4%	23.5%		
Total	69.5%	68.9%	68.8%	68.6%	68.1%	67.3%	68.0%	67.9%	67.7%	67.5%		66.6%	67.0%	67.5%		

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; www.data.census.gov; Tables DP05 and B23001