



Senate Bill 232

Date: January 28, 2026

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Position: Favorable

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 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 232 will improve Maryland's state procurement system by aligning state contracting procedures with established federal standards for engaging Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) businesses. The bill requires units to structure procurement procedures to meet certain federal procurement standards and sets overall percentage goals for the proportion of state procurement dollars to be directed to HUBZone certified firms.

Maryland's business community continues to support inclusive economic growth and equitable access to government contracting opportunities. By expanding participation in state procurement for HUBZone businesses, SB 232 will help create a more diverse supplier ecosystem—supporting small and locally-based companies that contribute to job creation, community investment, and long-term economic resilience. This complements existing efforts to broaden access for minority-, veteran-, and women-owned firms in state contracts, while strengthening Maryland's competitiveness in attracting federal funds and contracts.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report on SB 232**.