



Senate Bill 388 -- *Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act*
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee and Senate Finance Committee
February 18, 2026
Support

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports Senate Bill 388 -- *Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act*, which alters or enhances numerous programs administered by the Maryland Department of Commerce.

Growing Maryland's economy is among the most important challenges facing the state. With rising deficits projected in future years, mounting affordability concerns in housing and energy, the loss of 24,900 federal jobs last year, and \$1.6 billion in tax increases approved for 2025, Maryland must now focus sharply on expanding its economy, creating jobs, and strengthening its tax base. Simply put, Maryland must improve its business climate to become a more attractive and competitive state for growth. Reexamining the state's economic development strategy is an important first step.

To support economic growth, Maryland's economic development strategy must reflect a sustained commitment to driving private investment. The DECADE Act can help achieve this by refocusing the state's economic development incentives and programs around a strategy designed to increase economic activity and job creation. Expanding economic opportunities is essential to reversing Maryland's stagnant growth and ensuring that businesses of all sizes can compete and succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports Senate Bill 388 and respectfully requests a favorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

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