

XHB0898_MACC_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Drew Jabin

Position: FAV

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee | Senate Finance Committee
April 2, 2026

**HB 898 - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing
Development Efforts (DECADE) Act**

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Association of Community Colleges (MACC), representing Maryland's 16 community colleges, supports **HB 898**. This administration bill reflects a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to strengthening Maryland's economic competitiveness, supporting innovation, and advancing workforce and industry growth across the State.

Maryland's community colleges serve as the primary workforce training and talent development pipeline for many of the industries supported through the DECADE Act. Provisions related to innovation infrastructure, strategic economic development investments, small business financing, and research and development incentives will strengthen Maryland's ability to attract and retain employers while ensuring that residents have access to high-quality training aligned with evolving industry needs. Community colleges partner closely with employers across sectors including cybersecurity, biotechnology, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and emerging technologies, and the investments and programmatic changes contemplated in this legislation will help sustain and expand those partnerships.

MACC is particularly supportive of provisions that expand support for innovation infrastructure and workforce training spaces through programs such as the Build Our Future Grant Program and Regional Institution Strategic Enterprise Zones. Community colleges frequently collaborate with industry and regional partners to develop specialized training facilities, including cyber ranges, advanced manufacturing labs, and applied research and workforce training centers. These initiatives not only strengthen regional economies but also create clear pathways for Maryland residents into high-demand, family-sustaining careers.

By aligning economic development incentives, infrastructure investments, and innovation strategies, House Bill 898 helps ensure that Maryland remains competitive in attracting and growing key industries while supporting a strong and responsive workforce system. Maryland's community colleges stand ready to continue working in partnership with the Administration, the Department of Commerce, and industry leaders to implement these initiatives and meet the State's workforce and economic development goals. Accordingly, MACC urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report on **HB 898**.

Please contact Brad Phillips (bphillips@mdacc.org) or Drew Jabin (djabin@mdacc.org) with questions.

MDCC_HB 898_Favorable_Crossover.pdf

Uploaded by: Grason Wiggins

Position: FAV



House Bill 898

Position: Favorable

Committee: Senate Budget and Tax and Finance

Date: April 2, 2026

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 working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic health and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 898 (HB 898) extends the Build Our Future Grant Program, which provides matching grants of up to \$2 million to increase construction of innovative infrastructure for high-growth sectors, to 2030. Additionally, HB 898 extends the Research and Development Tax Credit to 2031, and the Employer Security Clearance Cost Tax Credit until 2032.

The Maryland Chamber urges the Senate to adopt the same affiliated group amendment for HB 898 that was added to Senate Bill 388 (SB 388). This amendment would establish a critical exemption for affiliated groups that are subject to the Tech Tax that was passed last year. As a result, Maryland would retain more businesses and create more jobs.

HB 898 is being considered at a time when Maryland is struggling with outmigration and job creation, and we believe HB 898 will extend valuable tools that help mitigate these issues. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests adoption of the affiliated groups amendment that was added to SB 388 and a favorable report on HB 898.**

HB0898 - cross-filed bill - FAV - DECADE Act.pdf

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0898_Crossfiled_Bill
RichardKaplowitz_FAV
04/02/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSS-FILED BILL HB#0898- POSITION:
FAVORABLE

Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act

TO: Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and members of the Budget and Taxation Committee
FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of cross-filed bill HB#0898, **Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act**

I submitted testimony on the cross-filed bill version heard in your chamber. That was bill SB0388 as amended which passed the Senate 43-0. This is the crossover bill from the other chamber HB0898. I urge you to support this bill which passed the Senate with amendments by the vote of 118-10. Please reconcile these bills and pass them in both chambers after a favorable vote in your committee.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on cross-filed bill HB#0898.

Anne Arundel County _FAV_HB898 Senate Crossover.pd

Uploaded by: Tom Ni

Position: FAV



April 2, 2026

House Bill 898
Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and
Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act

Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** House Bill 898 - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act. This legislation will strengthen Maryland's ability to compete for private-sector investment, build infrastructure, and expand economic opportunity for our residents. These priorities are central to our economic future and addressing current fiscal constraints.

Expanding the private tax base through strategic economic development is essential to maintaining strong public services while minimizing the burden on residents, and the DECADE Act strengthens the State's economic development toolkit to help local jurisdictions like Anne Arundel County compete in a highly competitive regional and national environment.

Anne Arundel County is focused on connecting residents to meaningful career pathways and supporting the growth of businesses that create long-term economic opportunity. Tools that help attract, retain, and expand employers are essential to advancing workforce development and ensuring our residents can access good-paying jobs close to home.

The DECADE Act modernizes and streamlines the State's economic development programs so Maryland can move quickly and effectively when time-sensitive opportunities arise. Flexibility and coordination between the State and local jurisdictions are key to closing competitive projects that deliver lasting economic returns. It also extends the life of essential tax credit programs that directly support job creation, talent attraction, business expansion, and innovation-driven growth.

Finally, Anne Arundel County values its partnership with the Maryland Economic Development Corporation and supports leveraging MEDCO's financing and project management capabilities to advance catalytic projects. Aligning these tools with an entity that has the capacity to structure and deliver complex development projects will help accelerate implementation and maximize the return on public investment.

I appreciate the General Assembly's continued commitment to strengthening Maryland's economy, supporting workforce development, and creating economic opportunities for communities across our State. For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on House Bill 898.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stuart Pittman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stuart" and last name "Pittman" clearly distinguishable.

Steuart Pittman
County Executive

HB 898_DECADE Act_Support_B&T.pdf

Uploaded by: Tony Bridges

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Harry Coker, Jr. | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: April 2, 2026
BILL NO: House Bill 898
BILL TITLE: Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports House Bill 898 - Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 898 strengthens Maryland’s ability to attract, develop, and grow businesses within the state by removing barriers to investment, supporting proven programs, and aligning economic development tools for maximum impact.

Background:

Maryland’s economic development tools are complicated and in some cases have not kept up with the current needs of businesses. The goal of this legislation is to sharpen the tools in the State’s economic development toolbox by applying lessons learned from the administration of economic development programs to improve them; ensuring that programs are straightforward, easy to market and utilize, and complimentary to one another.

Rationale:

House Bill 898 will revamp several existing programs to allow them to support high potential industry sectors and general business development and attraction. For example, the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority and Fund (MEDAAF) will be improved to better align with economic development best practices and enable the award of funding amounts that better meet modern needs. Additionally, successful and well utilized programs that are scheduled to terminate in the near future will have their sunset dates extended to ensure they continue to be available to incentivize future business investment.

Maryland’s assets - our highly skilled workforce, robust infrastructure, and world-class academic and federal institutions - make the State strategically positioned to support growth and innovation, but the State continues to fall short of its potential. Economic growth is the long-term structural solution to the challenges Maryland is currently facing. House Bill 898 – the DECADE Act – ensures the State’s economic development programs are structured in the best way to provide that growth.

Commerce appreciates that the Ways and Means Committee made several amendments to HB 898. Programs affected by amendments include the RISE Zones Program, the Biotechnology Investment Incentive Tax Credit (BIITC), and the Film Production Tax Credit. Commerce

welcomes the opportunity to continue working with the committee on amendments or differences within the bills.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 898.

HB0898-BT_MACo_SWA.pdf

Uploaded by: Karrington Anderson

Position: FWA



House Bill 898

*Economic Development - Delivering Economic Competitiveness and
Advancing Development Efforts (DECADE) Act*

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**
WITH AMENDMENTS

To: Budget and Taxation and Finance
Committees

Date: April 2, 2026

From: Karrington Anderson

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS HB 898 WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill continues the State's efforts to modernize Maryland's economic development strategy and strengthen its competitive position in key industries. Counties share the goal of advancing a forward-looking, resilient economy and appreciate the continued collaboration between the Maryland Department of Commerce and local economic development leaders.

As the State advances its economic development strategy, counties urge continued recognition that Maryland's regions are not one-size-fits-all economies. Strategies that strengthen one area may not produce the same results elsewhere, and a diversified approach that reflects regional strengths, workforce realities, infrastructure capacity, and existing industry clusters will better position the State for long-term resilience. While targeted investments in high-growth sectors can drive progress, many counties rely on a broad mix of industries, including manufacturing, agriculture, hospitality, logistics, healthcare, and small businesses. Ensuring that State strategies allow for regional flexibility will help avoid unintentionally narrowing opportunity in communities whose economic strengths may differ from statewide priorities.

HB 898 transfers oversight and administration of a few economic development programs from the Maryland Department of Commerce to the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO). While counties have a strong and productive working relationship with MEDCO and value its responsiveness and expertise, the expanded role contemplated under this legislation makes clear, structured coordination even more important.

As MEDCO assumes greater responsibility, counties request amendments to ensure ongoing consultation with counties and local economic development directors so that program implementation, project selection, and funding allocations remain aligned with regional needs and on-the-ground economic realities.

MACo appreciates the Maryland Department of Commerce's collaboration with counties to retain and enhance several high-priority incentive programs that are critical to business expansion and workforce development statewide. HB 898 revamps the Maryland Economic Development Assistance Authority

and Fund (MEDAAF/Advantage Maryland Program) by increasing available funding from \$5 million to \$7.5 million and removing the requirement that local governments must contribute at least 10% of a project amount provided by the State, thereby offering greater local flexibility. The bill also extends the sunset date from 2027 to 2032 for the Job Creation Tax Credit (JCTC) and the Employer Security Clearance Costs Tax Credit.

Preserving and strengthening these programs provides continuity, certainty, and flexibility for both the State and local jurisdictions to attract, retain, and grow businesses across Maryland. HB 898 reflects a continued commitment to strengthening Maryland's economic development framework. With consideration of regional flexibility, local input, and continued collaboration, this bill can better support balanced, statewide growth.

For these reasons, MACo requests a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report for HB 898.