



House Bill 1512

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: March 11, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (“Maryland Chamber”) is a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth and opportunity for all Marylanders.

House Bill 1512 (HB “1512”) would require businesses that round cash transactions upward to remit the difference between the original purchase price and the rounded amount to the Comptroller of Maryland. While the amounts involved may appear small, the policy and administrative implications of this legislation are significant and deeply concerning.

First, the would require businesses to track, account for, and remit a few cents at a time from cash transactions, creating a new regulatory and reporting obligation that will impose a compliance burden on businesses that is wholly disproportionate to the amounts being collected. Second, the legislation would require businesses to make potentially costly modifications to point-of-sale systems, accounting practices, and internal procedures in order to capture and report rounding differences. For small businesses—particularly independent retailers, convenience stores, and restaurants—these system changes and administrative tasks could result in expenses that far exceed any rounding amounts that might ever be collected.

Third, HB 1512 creates a fundamentally unbalanced framework. Rounding practices are typically designed to operate neutrally, with some transactions rounded up and others rounded down so that neither the consumer nor the merchant consistently benefits. By requiring remittance only when rounding increases the price, the bill disregards this balance and unfairly targets businesses for what is otherwise a routine transactional adjustment.

Employers across the state are already contending with rising costs, workforce challenges, and increasing regulatory complexity. Requiring businesses to calculate, track, and report pennies to the State of Maryland will create substantial administrative burdens and further complicate day-to-day business operations. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1512.**