



House Bill 1584

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Economic Matters

Date: March 10, 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 1584 (“HB 1584”) would create unnecessary and unprecedented barriers for Maryland residents who rely on flexible delivery work to supplement their income. As a result, HB 1584 would negatively impact Maryland’s economy and the thousands of Marylanders who supplement their income through flexible delivery work to pay bills for themselves and their families.

First, HB 1584 would require individuals who facilitate app-based deliveries to obtain a special license through the Maryland Public Service Commission. This requirement creates a new bureaucratic hurdle for individuals seeking flexible work. At a time when many Marylanders depend on app-based platforms to supplement household income amid rising costs, adding a new licensing requirement would discourage participation and reduce economic opportunity.

No other state in the country currently regulates app-based delivery couriers through a public-utilities-style licensing system that requires individuals to obtain a special permit simply to perform deliveries. HB 1584 would make Maryland an outlier among states, discourage participation on delivery platform, and reduce service availability, particularly in rural or underserved communities that rely on these services.

HB 1584’s disclosure requirements are based on a misunderstanding of how delivery platforms operate. Unlike rideshare services, which operate as two-sided marketplaces between riders and drivers, app-based delivery is a three-sided marketplace connecting a customer, a business, and a delivery worker. Both customers and businesses pay fees to the platform, and the platform separately compensates the worker. Because of this structure, requiring platforms to disclose how much consumers paid in fees and how much a worker earned from a specific delivery would not provide meaningful transparency.

In fact, these disclosures could create confusion rather than clarity. Consumer fees are not correlated with worker pay; they are typically based on the value of the goods purchased, while worker compensation is generally determined by factors such as time, distance, and operational

logistics. As a result, mandated disclosures could mislead consumers and workers into believing that compensation is directly tied to consumer fees when it is not.

For example, consumer fees are sometimes waived through promotions or loyalty programs. In such cases, a worker might appear to receive “100%” of a fee that was effectively zero, creating a distorted impression of how compensation works. Additionally, the bill does not clearly address how disclosures would function when multiple deliveries are “batched” together in a single offer, a common practice that improves efficiency and increases worker earnings.

For these reasons, HB 1584 risks reducing economic opportunity, discouraging participation in flexible work, and creating confusion rather than meaningful transparency. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 1584.**

