



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Committee Chair  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building  
230 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: House Bill 798 - Economic Development – Small, Minority, and Women–Owned Business Accounts – Management Fees - Small Business Increased Access to Capital Act

Dear Delegate Valderrama and Committee Members,

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) is pleased to offer its testimony in support of the proposed House Bill 798.

MCEDC has been a Fund Manager for the State’s Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) small business loan program since 2022, branding ours as the ACE Loan Program. Our vision is to drive effective economic prosperity initiatives that foster job growth, and to cultivate a business ecosystem conducive to a vibrant, competitive and inclusive local economy.

One of our biggest challenges is the ability to market the ACE Loan program to as many businesses as possible. HB798’s proposal to allow management fees between 1.5%-3% for fund managers participating in the Small, Minority, and Women-Owned Business Accounts Program to be used for administrative purposes would greatly increase our ability to market the program more broadly and ultimately to get loans to more of our small business community.

We fully support HB798 and would be happy to provide additional information as needed.

Sincerely,

*Laurie M. Babb*

Laurie M. Babb, CEcD  
Director of Economic Development

Cc: Delegate Sarah Wolek