



**SB 43 - Financial Institutions - Maryland Community Investment Venture Fund and Regulation of Entities - Revisions**

**Committee:** Senate Finance Committee

**Date:** January 29, 2026

**Position:** Favorable

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS** SB 43. This legislation, among other technical changes, builds on and refines the Access to Banking Act enacted in 2023. By updating the purpose, administration, and investment-matching provisions of the MCIV Fund, the bill strengthens its ability to direct capital to underserved communities and helps financial institutions better meet the needs of neighborhoods with traditionally limited access to financial products and services.

Under the Access to Banking Act, MCIV Fund resources support partnerships between Maryland-chartered financial institutions and financial technology firms to deploy innovative tools that expand access to capital for small businesses in low- to moderate-income areas. SB 43 broadens eligible beneficiaries to include individual residents, ensuring that entire communities benefit from these initiatives.

To further support these partnerships, the Access to Banking Act allows Maryland-chartered institutions to earn assessment offset credits for opening and maintaining branches in low- to moderate-income census tracts, with the option to donate those credits to the MCIV Fund. Existing language, however, limits participation by banks without a physical presence in those tracts. SB 43 reasonably expands eligibility by offering credits to institutions that open a “Maryland Opportunity Account,” thereby encouraging banks to offer accessible, lower-cost transaction accounts and enabling more institutions to contribute to the MCIV Fund.

Maryland banks remain committed to expanding access to credit in traditionally underserved communities. Accordingly, MBA urges the issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 43.

*The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing thousands of Marylanders and holding \$194.8 billion in deposits in over 1,100 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.*