



**SB 539 – Department of Social and Economic Mobility –
Workforce Opportunities Grant Program and Fund
Committee: Senate Finance Committee
Date: March 11, 2026
Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS** SB 539. This legislation establishes the Workforce Opportunities Grant Program within the Department of Social and Economic Mobility to provide grants to support workforce events and job fairs in Maryland. SB 539 represents a forward-looking investment in Maryland’s workforce, job creators, and economic ecosystem.

SB 539 advances the economic mobility that underpins a healthy, resilient financial system. Workforce events and job fairs not only help residents secure stable and higher-paying jobs, but they also strengthen household financial stability, support responsible borrowing, reduce default risk, and enhance long-term community economic health—all conditions that allow financial institutions to serve customers more effectively. When more Marylanders are working and earning, the entire state benefits.

In addition, financial institutions of all sizes rely on a steady pipeline of qualified talent—from entry-level customer service staff to technology, risk management, and finance professionals. The events supported under SB 539 provide banks with valuable opportunities to engage directly with job seekers, recruit new employees, and build long-term relationships with the communities they serve. By participating in these job fairs, banks can help connect Maryland residents with career-track positions that offer competitive wages, advancement opportunities, and comprehensive benefits.

By helping job seekers connect with employers, this bill directly invests in building a stronger workforce in Maryland. Accordingly, MBA urges the issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 539.

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.