



**House Bill 1177 -- *Small Business Reserve Program - Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprises - Outreach***  
**House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee**  
**March 10, 2026**  
**Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 1177 -- *Small Business Reserve Program - Veteran-Owned Small Business Enterprises - Outreach*.

House Bill 1177 requires the Office of Minority Business Enterprise to develop an outreach program to increase participation in the Small Business Reserve Program by small businesses that are veteran-owned small business enterprises.

MCCC supports incentives designed to support small businesses, and particularly working military veterans. This has long been a priority for MCCC, most notably through the Montgomery County Chamber Community Foundation's Veterans Institute for Procurement (VIP) program. The VIP program is the first free training program for Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses and Maryland Veteran-Owned Small Businesses. Veteran-Owned company "C-level" executives receive 27 hours of comprehensive instruction on how to accelerate their federal government contracting business skills. Most of the executives who graduate from the VIP program are retired military veterans who reside in Maryland.

This bill would expand the pool of qualified suppliers by bringing more veteran-owned businesses into the Small Business Reserve Program. Increasing participation by these firms strengthens overall economic development and helps grow the local business ecosystem. Greater veteran business involvement would boost Maryland's tax base, support small business formation, create jobs, and drive long-term economic growth. Enhancing these incentives would also reinforce Maryland's commitment to supporting those who have served our nation. It demonstrates that the state values veterans who continue to serve their communities through business leadership, innovation, and economic contribution.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 1177 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.*

*Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
301-738-0015 | [www.mcccmd.com](http://www.mcccmd.com)*