



House Bill 1079

Position: Favorable

Committee: Government, Labor, and Elections

Date: March 11, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 1079 (HB 1079) establishes an Office of Regulatory Management within State government and outlines responsibilities for a director and staff to oversee regulatory activity across agencies. The bill requires certain State units to provide regular reports on regulatory actions and permitting processes and directs agencies to develop strategies to simplify applications for permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations. The goal is to improve coordination, transparency, and efficiency in Maryland's regulatory processes while ensuring agencies regularly review how regulations and permitting systems operate.

This legislation represents an important step toward improving transparency, accountability, and efficiency within Maryland's regulatory framework. Maryland businesses rely on a predictable and efficient regulatory environment to make investment decisions, create jobs, and grow in the state. While regulations play an important role in protecting public health, safety, and the environment, the processes through which regulations are developed, implemented, and administered can often be complex and fragmented. HB 1079 takes a thoughtful approach to addressing these challenges by establishing an Office of Regulatory Management to provide greater coordination and oversight of regulatory activities across State agencies.

The creation of a centralized office focused on regulatory management can help ensure that regulatory actions are implemented in a consistent and transparent manner. By requiring agencies to report on regulatory activities and review permitting and licensing processes, the bill encourages agencies to evaluate how their processes impact those who must comply with them. For businesses, particularly small and mid-sized employers that may lack extensive compliance resources, clarity and consistency in regulatory processes are essential.

Additionally, the bill's requirement that agencies develop strategies to simplify application processes for permits, licenses, certifications, and registrations is a meaningful improvement. Many employers interact with multiple state agencies and must navigate numerous permitting or licensing requirements. Streamlining and modernizing these processes can reduce unnecessary

administrative burdens while allowing agencies to focus their resources on effective oversight and enforcement.

HB 1079 also promotes greater transparency by ensuring that information about regulatory actions and processes is regularly reported. This transparency can help policymakers better understand the cumulative impact of regulatory requirements and identify opportunities for improvement. When regulatory systems function efficiently, they benefit not only the regulated community but also the agencies responsible for administering them.

Maryland's economic competitiveness depends in part on maintaining a regulatory environment that is clear, efficient, and responsive. Establishing a dedicated office to review and coordinate regulatory activity can help ensure that Maryland's regulatory structure works effectively for both government and the business community.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **favorable report on HB 1079**.