



Ocean City, Maryland
Chamber of Commerce

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TESTIMONY OFFERED ON BEHALF OF
THE GREATER OCEAN CITY MARYLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IN OPPOSITION TO:
HB1479 – Labor and Employment - Minimum Wage - Increase
(Maryland Raise the Wage Act)

Before:
House Government, Labor & Elections Committee
Hearing: 3/5/2026 at 1:00 PM

HB1479 – Labor and Employment - Minimum Wage - Increase (Maryland Raise the Wage Act) increases the State minimum wage rate to \$18 for calendar year 2028 for large employers and for calendar year 2029 for small employers; and increasing, beginning January 1, 2029, and January 1, 2030, for large employers and small employers, respectively, the State minimum wage rate in effect for certain periods of time based on annual growth in a certain consumer price index, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

The Greater Ocean City Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 700 regional businesses and job creators, **IS OPPOSED TO HOUSE BILL 1479.**

The Chamber believes that the bill's implementation may lead to higher expenses for taxpayers and businesses. It could also impose an additional layer of regulations that complicate compliance by small businesses. The changes might negatively affect local job markets and economic growth. The bill could result in unforeseen negative outcomes that harm the intended beneficiaries. CPI does not account for regional price differences, leading to misleading averages. Growth policies should be implemented annually in legislation, not automatically.

2/3/2026

HB1479

For the above reasons, **HB1479** would have a tremendous adverse impact on our small business community. The Greater Ocean City Chamber respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE REPORT on HB1479**. Please feel free to contact the Chamber directly on 410-213-0144 should you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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