



February 17th 2026

HB 69: UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Wells and Members of the House Government, Labor, & Elections Committee:

On behalf of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce and our diverse membership of businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community partners, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to House Bill 69.

As drafted, HB 69 raises significant concerns for the business community. The bill would impose additional regulatory and/or financial burdens on employers at a time when Maryland businesses continue to navigate rising operational costs, workforce shortages, inflationary pressures, and increased compliance requirements at the state and federal levels. Policies that add complexity, uncertainty, or new mandates—without corresponding flexibility or offsetting relief—make it more difficult for employers to plan, invest, and grow.

From the Chamber’s perspective, HB 69 could:

- Increase the cost of doing business in Maryland, particularly for small and mid-sized employers who lack in-house compliance infrastructure;
- Create administrative burdens that divert time and resources away from core business operations and job creation;
- Undermine Maryland’s competitiveness relative to neighboring states; and
- Generate unintended consequences that may discourage expansion, hiring, or investment in our communities.

Harford County’s business community strongly supports policies that foster economic growth, workforce development, and regulatory clarity. We urge the General Assembly to carefully consider the cumulative impact of additional mandates on employers—especially in a challenging economic environment.

For these reasons, the Harford County Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 69.

Sincerely,

Angela M. Rose
President & CEO
Harford County Chamber of Commerce

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