



NFIB-Maryland – 60 West St., Suite 101 – Annapolis, MD 21401 – www.NFIB.com/Maryland

TO: House Ways & Means Committee
FROM: NFIB – Maryland
DATE: February 17, 2026

RE: **SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 840** – Property Tax – Credit for Commercial Buildings Rented to Small Businesses

Founded in 1943, NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. With more than 250,000 members nationwide, and nearly 4,000 here in Maryland, we work to protect and promote the ability of our members to grow and operate their business.

On behalf of Maryland’s small businesses, NFIB-Maryland supports House Bill 840 – legislation enabling Baltimore City and county governments to grant a property tax credit to small businesses that rent or rent-to-own property in arts & entertainment districts or a Main Street Maryland Community.

While state specific data is not available for Maryland, 18% of small business owners said they had plans to make capital outlays in the latest [NFIB Small Business Economic Trends](#) survey. The same survey noted that 60% of small business owners reported making capital outlays in the last six months. Enacting HB840 could encourage Maryland small businesses to make these critical investments.

Additionally, small business owners ranked “property taxes” 11th on the “Measures of Small Business Problem Importance” in the most recent [Problems & Priorities](#) report by NFIB. Property owners throughout Maryland [are seeing their taxes increase](#) in the wake of COVID-19. Granting a local property tax credit would incentivize critically needed investment in our state.

For these reasons **NFIB supports HB840** and requests a favorable committee report.