



Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce



# 2022 Maryland Legislative Session **Advocacy Report**

*Presented by MCCC's Advocacy Team*

# 2022 Maryland Legislative Session Report



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# 2022 Maryland Legislative Session Report



The Maryland General Assembly adjourned the 2022 Legislative Session on April 11, 2022. The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) achieved numerous victories for the Metro Maryland business community:

- Successfully advocated for important amendments to climate change and family and medical leave legislation.
- Defeated proposed increases in business costs and corporate taxes.
- Achieved critical success for transportation, infrastructure, and workforce priorities.

## The Top 2022 State Policy Issues That Will Impact Your Business



### Family and Medical Leave Insurance

**NEW:** MCCC did not oppose the concept of instituting a future family and medical leave benefit but [opposed](#) new costs to employers during the current uncertain economy.

The program requires employers and employees to contribute to a family and medical leave insurance fund starting in 2023. In 2025 - for employers with 15 or more employees - the program will require covered individuals who work at least 680 hours in a year to receive up to 12 weeks of benefits when taking leave due to personal and family circumstances.



### State Budget

**SURPLUS:** The State, flush with a \$7.5 billion surplus thanks to federal stimulus and higher than anticipated tax collections, was able to expand the Rainy Day Fund, provide \$1.86 billion in tax relief over five years, suspend the gas tax for one month, and pump \$800 million into public education reform.



### Redistricting and Elections

Legislators approved new [State](#) and [Congressional](#) maps, but the latter had to be redrawn following a court order. The primary election is July 19, and the general election on November 8.



### Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022

**ADVOCACY IN ACTION:** MCCC [opposed](#) this legislation, which passed this year after failing in 2021. Through our advocacy, MCCC successfully encouraged legislators to ease restrictions on smaller buildings and eliminate a broad natural gas ban.

The [Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022](#) requires Maryland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2031 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. These goals will be accomplished through a variety of means, including conservation requirements for larger buildings.



### Cannabis Legislation

**ON THE BALLOT:** Legislators passed a proposed [constitutional amendment](#) regarding the use and possession of cannabis for adults.

If voters approve the ballot question in November, details regarding use, distribution, possession, regulation, and taxation would be addressed in the 2023 State Legislative Session.



## Business Climate, Taxes, and Incentives

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES:** Thanks to MCCC's advocacy efforts - and despite efforts from the legislature to reduce their efficacy - the following economic development programs remain intact: [One Maryland Tax Credit](#), [More Jobs for Marylanders Program](#), [Enterprise Zones](#), and the [State Job Creation Incentives](#).

**CORPORATE TAX HIKES:** MCCC successfully advocated to defeat bills that sought to increase corporate taxes and costs through [combined reporting](#), a [throwback rule](#), and [carried interest](#).

**TAX CUTS:** Leaders in Annapolis agreed on a tax cut package that provides an [income tax credit for retirees](#), eliminates the sales tax on certain necessities, and provides [tax credits](#) to businesses that hire people who have had challenges with employment.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** MCCC successfully [supported](#) Montgomery County-specific [legislation](#) that supports streeteries and other outdoor dining options for restaurants.

**CORPORATE FILING FEES:** MCCC [supported](#) legislation to [eliminate filing fees](#) for electronically filed annual reports; however, this priority bill died in the House Economic Matters Committee.

**GREEN BUSINESS CERTIFICATION:** For the last few years, MCCC has advocated for the [Statewide Green Business Certification Program](#) that would encourage businesses to reduce their ecological footprint by creating a statewide program mirroring Montgomery County's existing program - a program crafted by our Chamber. This year, the bill died in the Senate's Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

## Talent and Workforce

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING:** MCCC [successfully advocated](#) for [legislation](#) that enhances talent attraction and retention efforts by increasing funding for workforce programs at [The Universities at Shady Grove](#) - a Member of MCCC's Board of Directors.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUNDING:** MCCC was unable to secure the passage of legislation that would have provided additional funding for community colleges by [increasing statutory funding percentages](#) and [funding tuition and residency waivers](#).

**CHILD CARE:** One of our [2022 Advocacy Priorities](#) is, "the availability of high-quality and affordable early education and childcare," a talent attraction, retention, and development imperative. Thanks to our advocacy, the following package of bills supporting this workforce development passed:

- [Child Care Scholarship Program Alterations:](#) Makes it easier to receive a child care subsidy under the Child Care Scholarship program.
- [Child Care Capital Support Revolving Loan Fund:](#) Establishes a fund to provide no-interest loans for capital expenses to child care providers.
- [Child Care Stabilization Grants:](#) Provides grants to child care providers that have faced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [Bonuses for Child Care Providers and Employees:](#) Establishes funding and the award and distribution of bonuses for child care providers and employees.





## Transportation and Infrastructure

**GAS TAX SUSPENSION:** Leaders in Annapolis [suspended the 36.1 cent motor fuel tax](#) for 30 days to alleviate inflation-induced price increases. The gas tax holiday expired on April 17, 2022.

**DEDICATED FUNDING FOR METRO:** The [WMATA Dedicated Funding Amendment Act of 2022](#) was supported by MCCC but did not pass. This bill sought to make the State's dedicated capital funding to WMATA more sustainable over the long term. This effort will be pursued again in 2023.

**MARC RAIL SERVICE ENHANCED:** MCCC supported the [Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act](#), which seeks to extend MARC train operations and expedite the advancement of rail projects that could use federal infrastructure money. Despite being vetoed by the Governor, the veto was overridden by the General Assembly, and became law, effective July 1, 2022.

## Learn More

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce advocates for our members to compete in a globally and regionally competitive marketplace by promoting opportunities and removing barriers.

In this, we ensure that we are proactive in meeting the needs of our members and serving as a resource to policymakers.

To contribute to an environment that supports local businesses, our advocacy focuses on three main areas:

Business Climate  
Talent and Workforce  
Infrastructure

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### Working For You

Is there a policy or regulatory issue impacting your business? Contact **Brian Levine**, MCCC Vice President of Government Affairs at [BLEvine@mcccmd.com](mailto:BLEvine@mcccmd.com), to learn more about how MCCC's advocacy can help accelerate the success of your business.

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### Get Involved

MCCC has four **members-only** advocacy committees that connect business leaders with federal, state, and local policymakers:

Economic Development  
Infrastructure & Land Use  
Legislative Affairs  
[GovConNet Council](#) (by invitation only)

Your participation allows you to learn more about upcoming laws and regulations that may impact your business. Connect with business leaders and policy experts at an upcoming advocacy briefing.

Contact **Brian Levine** at [BLEvine@mcccmd.com](mailto:BLEvine@mcccmd.com) to learn more about how to participate.