



**House Bill 1128 -- *Labor and Employment – Workforce Development – Talent Innovation Program and Fund*  
House Economic Matters Committee  
March 6, 2024  
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 1128 -- *Labor and Employment – Workforce Development – Talent Innovation Program and Fund*.

House Bill 1128 establishes the Talent Innovation Program and the Talent Innovation Fund in the Maryland Department of Labor to increase access to high-quality job training. The purpose of the program is to increase access to high-quality job training by using innovative and sustainable talent financing mechanisms to help meet skill needs in the State's prominent and emerging industry sectors, including: (1) cybersecurity; (2) health care; (3) biotechnology manufacturing; and (4) artificial intelligence.

For Maryland's economy to grow and prosper, it needs innovative solutions to its most pressing workforce development issues. Labor market concerns are reported by Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce leaders as the most pressing hinderance to growth.

Creating innovative programs and unique solutions for developing talent, especially in emerging industry sectors, will help Maryland's economy, create new family-sustaining jobs, and grow the State's tax base. More robust talent development programming that focuses on small businesses in high demand industries should be a top priority for policymakers seeking equity-focused economic development and a more competitive business climate.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 1128 and respectfully requests a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of our nearly 500 members, advocates for growth in business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and a proud Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

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