



*To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business*

**House Bill 1124:** State Government - Regulations Impacting Small Businesses - Economic Impact Analyses

Health and Government Operations  
Appropriations

March 5, 2019

**SUPPORT**

House Bill 1124 makes several changes to the regulation promulgation and enforcement process and requires State agencies to consider specified mitigation options when assessing civil penalties on small businesses. The bill also requires the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to provide related training at least once every two years and the Governor to designate an appropriate entity to conduct a related feasibility study.

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) members want to comply with federal, state and local laws. This is becoming increasingly complex as there are frequent changes, overlapping laws and no mitigation for the costs associated with consulting lawyers, accountants, and human resources specialists in particular in order to ensure compliance. It is important for State government to have a method to ascertain if legislation is effective and what the true costs may be for implementing and maintaining new regulations. We would like to see the members of the General Assembly reference these reports as they develop new ideas and proposals to ensure there is not duplication or over burdensome costs associated with legislation. For example, it is notable that the definition of Small Business used in the legislation is 50 employees or fewer. Many of the recent laws that have passed have a lower threshold. Consistency across all laws would be useful.

Given the numerous laws that have passed in the Montgomery County Council, we also appreciate clarity trying to be achieved in this proposal by stating that compliance with local laws should be considered compliance with state laws even though they may differ. This does not solve the problem of an employer with employees in multiple jurisdictions or an employee who works in multiple jurisdictions in the course of a day or week. But it does help bring clarity to those employees who are in Montgomery County.

For these reasons, **we request House Bill 1124 be given a favorable report.**

*The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased 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 is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.*

Tricia Swanson, Vice President, Government Relations  
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce  
51 Monroe Street, Suite 1800 Rockville, MD 20850  
301-738-0015 [www.mccc.md.com](http://www.mccc.md.com)