

To Lead, Advocate and Connect as the Voice of Business

SENATE BILL 522: Income Tax Credit - Eligible Employers - Eligible Internships

BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 21, 2017

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce ("MCCC"), as the voice of Montgomery County business, **supports 522** which allows specified eligible employers a credit against the State income tax for employing specified interns, which may not exceed \$1,000 for each eligible intern or 10% of the wages paid to each eligible intern, subject to specified limitations; requires an eligible employer to enter into a specified agreement with an eligible higher education institution; requires a specified eligible employer to submit a specified application at a specified time; etc.

Talent attraction and retention is a top priority for MCCC members across sizes and industries. In Montgomery County, there are a number of eligible students who attend Montgomery College, the Universities at Shady Grove and the University of Maryland. The program as described in the proposed legislation provides a structure and a financial incentive for an employer to onboard an intern. This provides the eligible intern with invaluable experience and connections in Maryland. It provides the employer with talent and an opportunity to identify potential future employees. We encourage a simplified online system of registering and interacting with all parties in order to make the process smooth and accessible.

For these reasons, we request a **favorable report** on Senate Bill 522.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our 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.