



**House Bill 327 -- *Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now Program -  
Strategic Industry Partnerships - Definition*  
House Economic Matters Committee  
February 14, 2023  
Support**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, supports House Bill 327 -- *Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now Program - Strategic Industry Partnerships - Definition*.

House Bill 327 expands the Maryland Employment Advancement Right Now (EARN) program by altering the definition of “strategic industry partnership” to include a collaboration between an employer offers to its employees workforce development and training to address workforce needs and shortages. The bill defines “strategic industry partnership” as a collaboration between a single employer and other partners in which the employer offers to its employees workforce development and training to address identified workforce needs and shortages.

MCCC members have consistently identified workforce issues and labor market concerns as the number one issue impacting their businesses. Attracting, retaining, and training a workforce is a top priority if Maryland’s economy is to grow, create jobs, and prosper. The Montgomery Chamber contends that expanding the EARN program, which directly addresses the workforce needs of the industry, is a positive step forward.

**For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 327 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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