



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

**Senate Bill 280: Labor and Employment - Payment of Wages - Minimum Wage and Enforcement (Fight for Fifteen)**

Finance

February 21, 2019

**SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) represents nearly 500 businesses; 74% are small businesses with less than 50 employees. MCCC was an active stakeholder when Montgomery County implemented its own minimum wage increase to \$15.

Montgomery County's increased wage began July 1, 2018 and our businesses and nonprofits, large and small, have been complying with this new law. MCCC has concerns regarding large discrepancies between the proposed state legislation and current county law including, but not limited to, the size of employers, tipped wage, employer protections, exemptions for specific jobs, and phase-in times.

MCCC respectfully requests amendments that would better conform the proposed legislation to county law.

Please consider the direct impact on our small businesses and nonprofits as you continue to discuss this proposed legislation. We look forward to participating in future conversations with this committee to alleviate any confusion on compliance for our businesses and nonprofits.

**For these reasons, we request an amended Senate Bill 280 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.*