



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

**Senate Bill 754:** National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program - Established

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs  
Budget and Taxation

March 5, 2019

**SUPPORT**

Senate Bill 754 establishes a National Capital Strategic Economic Development Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to provide financial assistance for specified housing authorities and community development organizations in the national capital region for community enhancement projects.

The purpose of the program is to provide strategic investment in local housing and businesses to encourage healthy, sustainable communities with a growing tax base and enhanced quality of life and focus on areas where modest investment and coordinated strategies will have an appreciable neighborhood revitalization impact.

Affordable housing and workforce development programs within the community enhancement projects are of specific interest to the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. Such programs are critical to the attraction and retention of our workforce. MCCC supports initiatives to increase the supply of both moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) and market-rate housing to meet the needs of all segments of the County's workforce, and our senior population.

For these reasons, **we request Senate Bill 754 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.*