



MARYLAND
Chamber of Commerce

LEGISLATIVE POSITION:

Letter of Information

House Bill 1448

Commissioner of Labor and Industry – Classification of Employees and Independent Contractors – Guidelines

House Economic Matters Committee

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Dear Chairman Davis and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 4,500 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees and families. Through our work, we seek to maintain a balance in the relationship between employers and employees within the state through the establishment of policies that promote fairness and ease restrictive burdens.

As presented, House Bill 1448 shall develop written guidelines for the meanings of “employ”, “employee”, “employer”, and “independent contractor” for legal, tax, and financial purposes. The Maryland Chamber of Commerce and its members support the intent and desire for uniform definitions in statute, however, there is concern for how these new definitions will interact with other, existing, definitions already in statute.

Furthermore, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce would ask that the employer community be included in the formation process of these new definitions as they are arguably the most impacted by any changes to the common terms.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce looks forward to working alongside the bill sponsor and the Commissioner of Labor and Industry in developing these new guidelines.

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