



TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL 111 – OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES OR CERTIFICATES - PRE-APPLICATION DETERMINATIONS - CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

Sponsor: Senator Cory McCray

February 1, 2022

**DONALD C. FRY
PRESIDENT & CEO
GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE**

Position: Support

Senate Bill 111 would establish a process for applicants applying for an occupational license or certificate allowing them to be informed of whether a specified criminal conviction would be the basis for denial of the occupational license or certificate. The process would allow for the applicant to receive an answer concerning their eligibility in writing before beginning the application process for the occupational license or certificate.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) supports this legislation. Citizens with criminal records experience significant barriers as they seek employment opportunities. The creation of a process to inform them of their eligibility before beginning the actual process will provide realistic expectations of their likelihood of approval for certain licenses and certificates and encourage them to seek for opportunities they may otherwise have believed to be out of reach. It will also allow those precluded from obtaining certain licenses and certificates to quickly pivot to other opportunities instead of spending time and effort on an endeavor that will ultimately be unsuccessful.

In the Greater Baltimore Committee report *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, eight core pillars were identified for a competitive business environment.

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

The GBC contends that this bill will help bring forth Maryland's untapped workforce potential.

For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 111.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

111 South Calvert Street • Suite 1700 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21202-6180

(410) 727-2820 • www.gbc.org