



February 28, 2017

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis
Economic Matters Committee
Room 131, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: HB 1260 – Annual Reports and Personal Property Reports – Fees, Exemption, and Affidavit – Support

Dear Delegate Davis:

House Bill 1260 would reduce or eliminate filing fees on Chartered businesses who do not own or report personal property in Maryland. The Legislative Committee of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce supports this bill as we believe it will encourage business development and encourage businesses to remain in the State of Maryland.

We believe House Bill 1260 is a step in the right direction towards fostering a more attractive climate for business in our state. This is especially true when nearby states have no personal property tax or filing fees. The fact that these fees end up in the general fund take on the appearance of a tax. In our opinion, the public would be better served if the fees go toward enforcement of the reporting rules.

The state of Maryland is at a critical juncture as the competition to attract new business and individuals is increasing. Moreover, the move toward increased regulation has had a negative impact on our business climate. We need to reverse this cycle for the future generations of Marylanders or we continue to lose both residents and businesses and at the same time become unattractive to those who are looking at our state as a place to call home.

The Carroll County Chamber of commerce, a business advocacy organization of over 560 members therefore asks that your committee consider the positive long term benefits of House Bill 1260 and give this bill a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'.

Michael McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce

CC: Delegate Susan W. Krebs
Senator Justin Ready

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