



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

Expedited Bill 40-20, Licensing and Regulations – Uniform Trader’s License Fee

Public Hearing
September 22, 2020

SUPPORT

Bill 40-20, Licensing and Regulations – Uniform Trader’s License Fee, would set the uniform trader’s license fee under State law at \$15, regardless of the value of the trader’s stock-in-trade.

Under the current law, an applicant for a trader’s license must pay an annual license fee to the Clerk of the Court ranging from \$15 to \$800, based on the value of the person’s stock-in-trade (i.e., inventory). The revenues are generally split between local government and the State general fund. In FY 2018, in Montgomery County there were approximately 7,010 trader’s licenses issued with revenue totaling \$1 million across the county.

While a very simple bill, this bill will benefit thousands of businesses across the County in a multitude of ways. The primary benefit to these businesses would be being relieved of the administrative burden of determining the value of their inventories. Importantly, these businesses have been particularly harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic recession. Further, by having a flat fee, it is encouraging and sending a message of support for business growth.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce applauds the sponsors Councilmember Glass and Friedson and Co-Sponsors Councilmembers Navarro, Rice and Albornoz, and Council President Katz for their support of this legislation. The Chamber also wants to thank Delegate Al Carr for passing the enabling legislation (HB34/CH569) at the state level.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our 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.