



**Maryland Chamber of Commerce**

## **Legislative Position**

**SB 249**

**FAVOR W/  
AMEND**

**Budget & Tax  
Committee  
2/11/09**

**SB 249**

### **Data Warehouse – Agency Data Sharing**

**Bill Summary:** This bill would authorize the Comptroller to require state agencies to electronically provide license, permit, and registration information for assembly into a database operated by that office.

**Chamber Position:** The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports this bill with an amendment. We fully support providing the Comptroller's Office the tools they need to effectively enforce the state's tax laws. In light of the state's budget gap, it is more important than ever that every dollar in taxes that is due be collected. Therefore, it is appropriate to use state agency data to assist in tax enforcement.

Combining state and federal tax information with data from employers, banks, and state agency permits, licenses and registrations will create the most powerful database of personal information on Maryland residents ever assembled. Under current law, this data would not carry the same confidentiality as tax information. Therefore, now is the time, before the database is created, to ensure that the confidentiality of the data gathered is maintained and this tool is only used for tax administration.

For these reasons, we urge a favorable report for this bill with the amendment noted below.

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### AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL NO. 249 (First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, after line 11 insert:

“(F) (1) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL MAINTAIN THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF RECORDS, AND MAY ONLY PUBLICLY DISCLOSE A NAME OR OTHER INFORMATION FROM A RETURN, LICENSE, PERMIT OR REGISTRATION AS PART OF A COURT PROCEEDING TO COLLECT TAXES DUE.

“(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT LIMIT THE COMPTROLLER’S AUTHORITY TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO LOCATE OWNERS OF ABANDONED PROPERTY.”