



Maryland Chamber of Commerce

Legislative Position

**SB 739
SUPPORT**

**Judicial Proc.
Committee
3/4/09**

SB 739

Good Samaritan Laws - Corporations

Bill Summary: This bill would provide protection from civil liability for a corporation that donated goods or services at the request or direction of a state or local government emergency management official during a state of emergency declared by the governor.

Chamber Position: The Maryland Chamber of Commerce supports this bill. Maryland has regularly experienced natural disasters that have led the Governor to declare states of emergency. We can easily foresee circumstances in which state or local government emergency management officials may request businesses to donate goods and services to help the citizens of Maryland following a natural disaster. Should businesses have to debate their legal liability before helping their neighbors?

The General Assembly has provided Good Samaritan protections for individuals providing assistance at the scene of an emergency. It is appropriate to extend similar protections to corporations donating assistance during a state of emergency.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber urges that this bill be given a favorable report.

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