

## Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee HB591: Statute of Limitations-Prosecutions or Enforcement of Local Consumer Protection Statutes Position: Favorable

March 31, 2025

The Honorable Will Smith, Chair Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings CommitteeCommittee

Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Economic Action Maryland Fund (formerly the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and equity for Maryland families through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 12,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

I am writing in support of HB591. HB591 extends the statute of limitations for the prosecution or enforcement of a consumer protection code for with relief, a fine, or penalty is provided. The legislation extends the statute from one year to three years. This is a common sense change, in line with what other jurisdictions are doing, and is supported by local consumer protection bureaus.

For all these reasons, we support HB591 and ask for a favorable report.

Best,

Zoe Gallagher Policy Associate