

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**HB1011 Cigarettes, Other Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices –  
Local Law Authorization  
Economic Matters Committee  
February 24, 2021**

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Background:** HB1011 would allow local jurisdictions to enact their own legislation regarding the sale of certain tobacco products, which would result in a patchwork of regulations across the state.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association (MRA), which represents a variety of small and large businesses across the state including multi-jurisdictional operators, opposes the proposed legislation to allow greater jurisdictional regulations on tobacco products.

The MRA believes that the proposed authorization would have a negative impact on businesses operating in Maryland, particularly those businesses with multiple stores located in different jurisdictions. The proposed legislation would, if passed, result in a patchwork of regulations across the state. Such regulatory environments can be very difficult for multi-jurisdictional businesses to operate in, as we have experienced most recently with varying local restrictions put in place due to COVID-19. Additionally, allowing local jurisdictions to impose their own stricter regulations could result in unfair disadvantages between businesses operating in different cities and counties as business owners have no control over sudden changes in a local regulatory district that they may have already been located in for years. As businesses are still in recovery mode due to the pandemic, this is not the time to open up the regulatory environment to local changes with no regard for a business's ability to survive.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge an unfavorable report on HB1011.