



**HB420 Employers of Ex-Offenders – Liability for Negligent Hiring or Inadequate
Supervision – Immunity
Economic Matters Committee
February 3, 2021**

Position: Favorable

Background: HB420 would provide certain immunity for employers for, under certain circumstances, hiring or failing to supervise an employee who has received probation or has been convicted of an offense.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Association strongly supports HB420. Studies have shown that access to gainful employment can have a positive effect on recidivism rates for ex-offenders. A dependable wage and consistent schedule can provide stability for those who are in need of a fresh start. The immunity provided by this legislation would expand options for individuals who are seeking employment and would result in a more positive work environment for those employees.

We believe that this legislation would result in a decrease in recidivism rates in Maryland and would have a positive impact on Maryland's businesses and communities by providing more opportunities for ex-offenders.

Thank you for your consideration. We urge a favorable report on HB420.