

MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB1154 Labor and Employment – Economic Stabilization Act – Alterations
Finance Committee
March 9, 2021**

Position: Support

Background: HB1154 would alter the instances in which employers must provide a certain written notice of reduced operations.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Association supports the proposed provision in HB1154 to exempt employers from providing a 60-day written notice of reductions in the case that the reason for reductions was unforeseeable within that window of time. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the first shut-downs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important to acknowledge the sudden and lasting effects that the State of Emergency has had on the business community in Maryland. During this time, retailers have faced major difficulties stemming from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including responding to and struggling to follow official guidance that did not include explicit language for business operation. With this in mind, we would urge the Committee to consider amending the legislation to include an explicit exemption for advance written notice requirements in the case of a catastrophic emergency.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with the sponsor on this issue.