



**HB356 Corporations and Associations – Filing Fee Study**  
**Economic Matters Committee**  
**January 20, 2021**

**Position: Support**

**Background:** HB356 would require the State Department of Assessments and Taxations to study the corporate filing fees required to do business in Maryland, and to make recommendations based on the comparison of those fees to those required in neighboring states.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association strongly supports Delegate Qi’s efforts to evaluate the State filing fees for corporations. Small businesses are part of the hardest-hit sector of COVID-19 pandemic casualties, and it is clear that the economic effects of the pandemic will be felt long after the public has been vaccinated. Maryland ranked 46<sup>th</sup> in the country for the cost of doing business in 2019 according to CNBC, and adjusting corporate filing fees to keep Maryland’s business environment competitive with neighboring states would help to lessen the financial stumbling blocks for businesses as our communities recover from the last year.

Thank you for your consideration, and we urge a favorable report on HB356.