



**HB685 Labor and Employment – Secure Maryland Wage Act  
Economic Matters Committee  
February 9, 2021**

**Position:** Favorable with Amendments

**Background:** HB685 would establish a specific wage rate and benefits to be paid to certain employees working at “heightened security interest locations”.

**Comments:** The employer requirements that would be established by HB685 are unnecessary for retail workers employed at heightened security locations. These employees do not need to undergo additional security training, nor do they have increased security responsibilities or risks as compared to retail employees working outside of these locations.

During the previous Session, the retail industry and the bill’s sponsor were able to come to an agreement regarding amendments to remove retail employees from the definition of “covered employees” in the bill. The Maryland Retailers Association would support similar amendments to HB685 to exempt retail workers from the requirements in the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.