



## **Senate Bill 496**

### **Business Regulation – Miscellaneous State Business Licenses - Alterations**

**February 24, 2022**

#### **Position: Favorable with Amendments**

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* supports the goal of Senate Bill 496 to make updates and alterations to business licenses under Maryland's Business Regulation Article. In 2009, the General Assembly repealed an antiquated Soda Fountain License requirement under this Article at the request of our organization.

We have concerns about language in Subtitle 16 of the bill regarding license requirements for restaurants. We believe it is unnecessary, duplicative and confusing to require restaurants to have both a Restaurant License and a Trader's License. Restaurants should not be required to also have a Trader's License because our industry does not primarily sell inventory at wholesale or retail in the sense that the Trader's License is intended. Restaurants and other eating places are primarily in the business of preparing and serving/selling value-added foodservice products.

We have been in contact with a representative of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerk's Association about an amendment that would achieve our goal of requiring only one license for restaurants under the Business Regulation Article. We are currently working on amendment language that we hope the Circuit Court Clerk's Association can also support so that we can subsequently submit it for this Committee's consideration.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melvin R. Thompson  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs and Public Policy