

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



## **HB680 – Baltimore County – Property Tax Credit – Supermarkets** **Ways and Means Committee** **February 15, 2022**

**Position:** Favorable

**Background:** HB680 authorizes the government of Baltimore County to issue a tax credit against the personal property tax for new supermarkets that are constructed in food desert areas as defined by the County government.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association (MRA) strongly supports the property tax credit proposed in HB680. This creative approach to address food access would positively impact retailers' decisions about where to expand within the state. Food retailers like grocery stores typically operate with the lowest profit margins in the retail industry at 1-3%. A property tax credit would help offset some of the costs associated with constructing and opening a new store.

With this in mind, we would strongly urge a favorable report on HB680. Thank you for your consideration.