

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**SB224 Department of the Environment - Zero-Emission Medium- and Heavy-Duty  
Vehicles - Regulations (Clean Trucks Act of 2023)  
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
February 9, 2023**

**Position:** Favorable with Amendments

**Background:** SB224 would require the State to adopt regulations for the sale of zero-emission vehicles and incorporate standards established in California law.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Association (MRA) understands the need to incorporate methods for lowering greenhouse gas emissions into the transportation sector. Many members of the retail industry are beginning to incorporate low emission and electric vehicles into their delivery fleets, whether through pilot programs or established transition goals. Progress is being made in this area, but the existing technology and infrastructure are not evolving at a pace that could meet the goals that would be established by SB224. Challenges including current charging infrastructure and availability, grid capacity, and vehicle battery range and weight present barriers to swift implementation of electrification requirements in Maryland.

MRA would recommend that the Committee strongly consider the amendments that have been recommended by the Maryland Motor Truck Association (MMTA). The amendments would require the State to conduct a needs assessment and develop an implementation plan unique to Maryland. This would permit the State to delay implementation if the needs assessment determines that the current infrastructure and manufacturing cannot support the standards established in California, allowing for Maryland's trucking industry to adapt at an appropriate and attainable pace.

Thank you for your consideration.