



WMDA/CAR Service Station and Automotive Repair Association

February 27, 2023

Chair: Melony Griffith
Members of Senate Finance Committee

RE: HB1000 – Alcohol and Tobacco Commission Updates
Position: Favorable with Amendments

WMDA members are all in on stricter enforcement, but this bill authorizes searches without warrant and no criteria for enactment. Seasoned law enforcement looking for felons cannot do this. There should be rules in place to authorize this unprecedented authority and input from stakeholders.

- What is the protocol for initiating a search of premises without a warrant?
- On some location I represent, convenience stores and service stations, operate out of a locked building, at certain hours for safety. How would that work?
- What happens when owners are not present, and storerooms or tobacco storage is locked is locked?
- Maryland department of Health is already authorized to conduct inspections, authorizing them to do searches without a warrant is another matter altogether. So many questions about the qualifications and safety of both the searchers and the ones being searched.

There are too many unanswered questions to pass this bill as is, WMDA is all for better enforcement and would like to be part of discussion on steps to obtain that goal. Amending by striking language to allow warrantless searches of entire premises

WMDA/CAR is a trade association that has represented service stations, convenience stores and independent repair shops since 1937. Any questions can be addressed to Kirk McCauley, 301-775-0221 or kmccauley@wmda.net