



Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association
P.O. Box 711 ★ Annapolis, MD 21404
410-693-2226 ★ www.mapda.com

TO: Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors Association (MAPDA)

DATE: March 29, 2023

RE: **HOUSE BILL 1000** – Alcohol and Tobacco Commission – Updates

Since 1946, MAPDA has been the association for convenience stores and energy distributors. Through gas, coffee, food, heating oil, and propane, our members feed and fuel Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia's economies.

House Bill 1000 as amended and passed by the House of Delegates, would allow a health department official or the Executive Director of the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission (ATC) to conduct an unannounced and warrantless search of a licensed cigarette and tobacco retailer (e.g. convenience stores). MAPDA objects to this provision and requests it be amended out.

MAPDA is concerned with this new broad authority. Would these officials be allowed to search employee lockers or personal items? Does the owner have to be present or notified at the time of the search? Are there limitations to this warrantless authority? Does the employer have any liability to notify employees the premises is subject to warrantless searches?

For these reasons, **MAPDA requests an amendment to remove language allowing health department officials and the ATC Executive Director to conduct warrantless searches of the entire premises of tobacco and cigarette retailers.**

Feeding and fueling the economy through gas, coffee, food, heating oil and propane.

MAPDA is an association of convenience stores and energy distributors in Maryland, Delaware & the District of Columbia.