



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: February 16, 2023

RE: **OPPOSE SENATE BILL 299** – Food Service Facilities – Automated External Defibrillator Program

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.

On behalf of Maryland's convenience stores and energy distributors, MAPDA opposes SB299 – legislation that would require the owner and operator of a food service facility to develop and implement an automated external defibrillator (AED) program.

The General Assembly established the Maryland Public Access AED Program in 1999. The voluntary program allows businesses to make AEDs available to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. To participate, businesses are required to maintain registration with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). There are also inspection, training, and certification requirements.

The goal of the legislation is clearly laudable. But making it mandatory for these food service facilities places regulatory and financial burdens on these businesses. There's also a serious concern about the assumed liability of the program. The current model of a voluntary program is better suited for the business community.

For these reasons, MAPDA respectfully opposes SB299 and **requests an unfavorable committee report.**

**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.