

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**HB1095 Economic Development – Local Journalism Sustainability Grant Program  
Appropriations Committee  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Position: Favorable**

**Background:** HB1095 would establish a grant program for small businesses that advertise in local newspapers.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports HB1095, which would establish a grant program for businesses with fewer than fifty employees for costs associated with advertising the business in local newspapers. This grant would assist small businesses with building a reliable customer base within their community by reimbursing for the cost, up to \$1,000, of advertising in local newspapers. This would boost both the small businesses that could receive the grant and local news sources that host the advertisements. Proposals like this that would offset business operating costs while encouraging Marylanders to patronize and make connections with local businesses will benefit all of our communities and result in stronger local economies.

MRA would urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB1095. Thank you for your consideration.