

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB267 Electricity and Gas - Retail Supply - Regulation and Consumer Protection
Economic Matters Committee
February 15th, 2024**

Position: Unfavorable

Background: HB267 would establish an energy salesperson license for certain persons that offer or sell electricity or gas supply agreements to customers in the State; provide for the terms of electricity supplier, energy salesperson, and gas supplier licenses issued by the Public Service Commission; establish certain licensing and renewal requirements for certain persons; and provide for certain disciplinary actions by the Commission against electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons for certain acts.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance, on behalf of thousands of businesses located in Maryland, has serious concerns about the impact that HB267 could have on business operating costs. Deregulation in Maryland allows consumers to identify the best possible price for their energy needs and promotes low costs through the free market. The supply and price restrictions proposed in HB267 would reinstate a utility-controlled monopoly for energy, eliminating options and increasing energy costs for consumers in the state.

We would urge the Committee to vote unfavorably on this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.