



**HB 574 - Commercial Financing - Small Business Truth in Lending Act**

**Committee:** House Economic Matters Committee

**Date:** February 20, 2024

**Position:** Favorable

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS** HB 574. This legislation establishes a regulatory framework for businesses engaged in commercial financing transactions. This new framework would appropriately fall under the regulatory and enforcement authority of the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR).

While OFR currently has the power to investigate financial transactions to determine any violations, HB 574 would positively impact Maryland small businesses by implementing consistent standards and transparency requirements for commercial lenders to ensure equity and accountability in lending.

Maryland banks are proud to work with thousands of Maryland businesses to offer extensive responsible commercial financing products and services and strongly support transparency for all small business financing.

This bill is a smart step forward in protecting Maryland small businesses and accordingly, MBA urges a **FAVORABLE** report on HB 574.

*The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing more than 26,000 Marylanders and holding more than \$209 billion in deposits in over 1,200 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.*