



Maryland Arborist Association, Inc.

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director

SB 0683 – Tree Expert Licenses - Workers' Compensation Insurance Requirements and Application and Renewal Fee Alterations

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment
MAA Position: **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT**

Date: February 19, 2024

The Maryland Arborist Association, Inc. (MAA) works to promote the importance of proper tree care, education in the field of arboriculture, and support the accomplishments of arborists. The majority of our membership are Licensed Tree Experts (LTE) who would be directly impacted by SB 0683.

The LTE program provides protection to Maryland consumers that those engaged in tree care in the state are using best practices and are properly insured. We have continually heard from our membership concerns about individuals who are operating wrongfully without a license or abusing their license are not properly being enforced. It has been expressed to us that through this legislation, these issues will be addressed through the increase of application and renewal fees.

However, we are apprehensive to support the increase in fees without knowing how much the increase will be or guaranteeing that the additional revenue will benefit enforcement of the program. Our membership has expressed that significant fee increases would negatively impact Maryland's small tree care businesses. Due to this concern, we request that SB 0683 be amended to include the amount of fee increases. With this change, we request your favorable report on SB 0683.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bauer Farace
Executive Director