



## House Bill 1116

### **Business Regulation - Restaurants and Traders - Licensing Requirements**

March 27, 2024

#### **POSITION: Favorable with Amendment**

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* supports House Bill 1116 with the minor clarifying amendment to be offered by the bill sponsor.

Our organization also supported Chapter 315 of 2022, which made various updates and changes to business license requirements under Title 17 of the Business Regulation Article. Among those changes, [Section 17-1603](#) requires a person to have only a restaurant license whenever the person operates a restaurant or other eating place. Prior to 2022, this section of law required both a restaurant license and a trader's license. The 2022 legislation removed the trader's license requirement for restaurants from this section of law.

HB 1116 was introduced to require licensed restaurants that also sell merchandise as part of their business operations (e.g., operating in conjunction with a gift shop or retail store) to also have a trader's license. The amendment to HB 1116 is intended to exempt licensed restaurants from also needing a trader's license if annual sales of non-food items (such as hats, t-shirts, etc.) is 10% or less.

We support HB 1116 with this amendment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Thompson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Melvin R. Thompson  
Senior Vice President