

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB549 Statute of Limitations - Prosecution or Enforcement of Local Consumer
Protection Codes
Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 21st, 2024**

Position: Unfavorable

Background: HB549 would increase the statute of limitations for the prosecution or suit for enforcement of local consumer protection codes.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance has concerns about the statute of limitations increase proposed in HB549. As introduced, the bill would have extended the statute of limitations for enforcement of local consumer protection codes from one to three years. As amended, the three-year extension is maintained but the statute of limitations would begin when local authorities become aware of the violation rather than when the violation actually occurs. We believe this is an inappropriate extension and would open our industry up to further actions. We would urge the Committee to strike the language on page 2 lines 1-2 as amended (“local authorities knew or reasonable should have known of the violation”) and revert the language to “after the offense was committed” as introduced.

Thank you for your consideration.