



SENATE BILL 666

Human Relations - Discrimination by a Place of Public Accommodation

February 20, 2024

Position: Oppose as introduced

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The *Restaurant Association of Maryland* opposes SB 666 as introduced. Over the years, there have been different versions of this legislation. In 2020, we worked with bill sponsors and the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights to address our concerns regarding this legislation. The result of those efforts was HB 579 in 2020, which we did not oppose. That legislation passed the House in 2020.

This year, we worked with the sponsor of HB 368 (the cross-file of SB 666) to amend the bill to reflect the 2020 language that all stakeholders had agreed to, with other minor amendments. This amended version of HB 368 has passed the House Health and Government Operations Committee and is awaiting a final vote in the House.

We respectfully request that SB 666 be amended to conform to HB 368, and we would subsequently withdraw our opposition.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melvin R. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy