

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



HB1434 Food Deserts Workgroup - Establishment Environment and Transportation Committee March 4th, 2025

Position: Favorable

Background: HB 1434 would establish a Food Deserts Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding solutions to eliminate food deserts in the State.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance supports HB1434 as an information-gathering opportunity regarding the issue of food deserts in Maryland. We regularly engage on the subject of grocery store location choice and are often asked how to attract food retailers to particular communities. We are aware that many factors can contribute to the decision-making process for businesses to determine new locations, and we generally encourage and support the passage of business-friendly policies to have a positive impact on the State's economic climate. In addition to the subject areas identified by HB1434, the proposed workgroup could review the impact of public policy on efforts to attract grocery stores and make informed recommendations to the legislature.

We would respectfully recommend a favorable report on this proposal to compile information around food access in Maryland. Thank you for your consideration.