

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



HB1439 Better Small Business Employee Benefit Act Of 2025 Health and Government Operations Committee March 11th, 2024

Position: Favorable

Background: HB1439 would authorize professional employer organizations to offer health benefit plans to clients.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) strongly supports HB1439 which would allow Professional Employer Organizations (PEOs) to offer healthcare plans to their clients. MRA is aware that access to a variety of healthcare plan options can be very meaningful to employers; our members, particularly small business owners, regularly request an affordable healthcare plan as a benefit option that they could provide to their employees through our organization. Allowing PEOs to offer this option to small businesses in addition to other benefits and human resources services could greatly improve the operational climate for small entities in Maryland. This would also have a positive impact on Maryland's appeal to businesses, as the state is currently one of only three that does not allow for a small employer contracted with a PEO to participate in a large group health policy through the professional organization. Access to large group plans can reduce costs for small employers and allow those businesses to better appeal to applicants who are seeking health insurance access through employment.

For these reasons, MRA would strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably on HB1439. Thank you for your consideration.