

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



## **SB584 Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death Judicial Proceedings Committee February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Background:** SB584 would remove the cap on noneconomic damages in cases of personal injury and wrongful death.

**Comments:** The Maryland Retailers Alliance (MRA) writes in opposition to **SB584 Civil Actions - Noneconomic Damages - Personal Injury and Wrongful Death**. We have serious concerns about the impact that this proposal would have on unavoidable operational costs for businesses. Removing the existing cap on noneconomic damages could drastically affect rates for insurance policies at a time when essentially all “costs of doing business” are also increasing. This impacts not only property and casualty and umbrella policies for businesses, but also the health insurance policies that are available to employees through their workplace. As liability risk increases for healthcare professionals, so too will the cost of healthcare.

The fiscal analyses performed on previous introductions of this proposal have predicted meaningful impacts on small businesses. The previously mentioned estimated effect on the cost of insurance and the financial risks faced by businesses that find themselves as defendants against lawsuits resulting from the damages cap removal are particularly alarming. Though a fiscal analysis is not available for SB584 at the time of testimony submission, MRA expects that similar expectations would apply to this legislation.

For these reasons, we would respectfully urge an unfavorable report on SB584. Thank you for your consideration.