

# MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

*The Voice of Retailing in Maryland*



**HB591 Statute of Limitations - Prosecution or Enforcement of Local Consumer Protection Codes**  
**Judicial Proceedings Committee**  
**February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Position:** Unfavorable

**Background:** HB591 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 **HB591 Statute of Limitations - Prosecution or Enforcement of Local Consumer Protection Codes**. As introduced, the bill would extend the statute of limitations for enforcement of local consumer protection codes from one to three years, and that statute of limitations would begin when local authorities become aware of the violation rather than when the violation actually occurs. While it is our understanding that the intent of this proposal is to align local statutes of limitations with that of the State, HB591 would go beyond the State statute which begins when a legal violation occurs. Allowing the local statute of limitations to begin when authorities become aware of a legal violation is an inappropriate extension. We would respectfully request that the bill be amended to strike “local authorities knew or reasonably should have known of the violation” on page 1 lines 18-19 and insert “after the offense was committed”.

MRA’s unfavorable position on HB591 is in reference to the bill as introduced. Thank you for your consideration.