

February 3, 2026

TO: House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Tara Rider
Brigit
36 W 20th Street
New York, New York 10011

RE: House Bill 237: Unfavorable

Chairwoman Valderrama, Vice Chair Charkoudian, and members of the committee:

My name is Tara Rider and I am the Vice President of Policy and Government Relations at Brigit, a financial wellness company that offers direct to consumer, earned wage access (“EWA”) to over 130,000 consumers in Maryland at an average of \$75.00 per transaction. As you know, earned wage access is a financial tool that so many Maryland residents rely on. I am here to discuss the proposed amendments to newly enacted Chapter 847. While the amendments have a focus on tips, Brigit’s concerns are around other provisions that would improperly apply loan statutes to the product, rather than establish those provisions within Chapter 847. Brigit does not solicit tips so I am unable to speak to those amendments.

Over the last two plus years, myself and industry colleagues have had robust and open conversations with the legislature, the Office of Financial Regulation, consumer advocates, and most importantly our customers to develop a framework for providers to operate under. As a result, Chapter 847 was created and went into effect just a few short months ago. Chapter 847 establishes consumer protections, a licensing requirement for providers as well as a first in the nation fee cap for delivery fees. Brigit charges an optional \$2.99 expedited delivery fee with an optional subscription for a suite of financial wellness services that are not incident to the EWA transaction. I am so proud of the hard work that was done to protect Maryland consumers.

We appreciate the time and efforts that both the Senate Finance Committee and House Economic Matters Committee have spent working with stakeholders on this important issue over the last two plus years. Amending the bill further may potentially create more confusion as part of the licensing process and put new requirements on providers who are still awaiting licensure under the current framework. I ask that providers are given a fair opportunity to gain their licensure first before any amendments are made that may impact operations; should any issues arise, we continue an open dialogue with all interested parties to determine the best path forward as we have done for the last two years.

Thank you again for your efforts on creating a responsible framework for earned wage access providers to be licensed under. I urge you to not take any further action on a new law where many providers are still awaiting licensure.

Sincerely,

Tara Rider
Vice President, Policy and Government Relations