

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



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GOVERNOR

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

Dear Chair Valderamma, Vice-chair Charkoudian, and members of the committee,

On behalf of Governor Wes Moore, I urge a favorable report on HB895 - Protection from Predatory Pricing Act. The Protection from Predatory Pricing Act prohibits dynamic pricing and the use of surveillance data to inform individualized pricing with intent to keep groceries affordable.

As the Trump-Vance Administration's agenda continues to skyrocket the price of everything, Maryland families are struggling to keep up with the cost of basic goods like groceries. The Bureau of Labor Statistics confirmed that in December, grocery prices saw their biggest increase since 2022. For example, coffee prices are up 20%, and beef is up 16%. This is only compounded by the federal government slashing more than 25,000 federal jobs in Maryland alone. In the face of these attacks on the middle-class from Washington, D.C., the Moore-Miller Administration is taking action to protect Marylanders' pocketbooks and lower costs for working families.

Technology should work to benefit working families. Smart use of technology can make Maryland more competitive, grow our economy, and protect our people against this onslaught we have seen from our federal partners. The Moore-Miller Administration is proud to sponsor legislation that ensures that groceries remain affordable in Maryland. Our Administration looks forward to collaborating with the Economic Matters Committee, proponents, and opponents to produce an impactful piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Myles Hicks
Deputy Legislative Officer
Office of the Governor