

**ADRIAN BOAFO**  
*Legislative District 23*  
Prince George's County

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee

*Chair*  
Workers' Compensation  
Subcommittee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Chairwoman Kris Valderrama  
Economic Matters Committee  
House Office Building, Room 230  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Chair Valderrama, Vice-Chair Charkoudian, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee,

HB 1191 is a straightforward bill that updates Maryland's laws governing secondhand precious metal and gemstone dealers so that our statute reflects how this marketplace operates today while continuing to maintain the consumer protections and law enforcement safeguards already established in Maryland law.

In recent years, a number of specialized estate buying companies have emerged that purchase jewelry, coins, precious metals, and other collectibles directly from consumers. These businesses do not lend money and they do not operate as pawn brokers. Instead, they typically partner with local jewelry stores to host short-term buying events where customers can bring in inherited or unused items to sell.

These events provide several benefits. Consumers receive professional valuations and transparent pricing for items they may not otherwise know how to sell. At the same time, local jewelers benefit from additional customer traffic and new visitors coming into their stores.

However, Maryland's current statute does not clearly account for this type of short-term, event-based business model. Because of that, legitimate businesses sometimes face unnecessary administrative hurdles simply because the law has not kept pace with how the industry now operates.

HB 1191 addresses this issue by creating a limited license category for secondhand precious metal and gemstone dealers. This new license is designed specifically for businesses that participate in these short-term buying events. Importantly, the bill maintains the existing oversight, reporting requirements, and consumer protections that are already part of Maryland law.

Ultimately, this bill is about modernizing Maryland law and providing regulatory clarity while maintaining strong protections for consumers and safeguards for law enforcement. For those reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 1191.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian A. Boafo".

Delegate Adrian A. Boafo