



Senate Bill 757

Position: Unfavorable

Committee: Finance

Date: March 5, 2026

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

Senate Bill 757 (SB 757) would require sellers to disclose when the price of a consumer good includes a tariff and the amount of that tariff and would direct the Maryland Department of Commerce to create a searchable online Local Sourcing Portal connecting in-State buyers with local suppliers of tariff-impacted goods and other inventory.

Many businesses that sell products in Maryland, including those that contract with the State, do not have access to precise information regarding the tariffs applied to finished goods or to the individual components within those goods. Supply chains are complex and often global.

Determining the exact tariff impact on a specific product frequently requires detailed customs classifications, country-of-origin analyses, and evolving federal trade determinations that are outside the expertise of most Maryland businesses. In practical terms, complying with this requirement would likely require companies to retain specialized trade counsel or compliance personnel solely to interpret and track federal tariff data.

Even then, identifying accurate and up-to-date tariff information presents challenges. Tariffs can change over time and may apply differently depending on sourcing, product composition, or federal trade actions. There is no simple, centralized mechanism for businesses to obtain definitive tariff breakdowns for each product they sell. Requiring disclosure of specific tariff amounts without providing a clear methodology or safe harbor will create uncertainty and significantly increase the risk of inadvertent error.

Our primary concern is the bill's treatment of a failure to disclose tariff information as an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice. Classifying what may be a complex accounting or supply chain determination as a consumer protection violation carries serious consequences. It exposes businesses to enforcement actions, civil penalties, and reputational harm, even where any omission or miscalculation was unintentional and made in good faith. This approach is

disproportionate and creates a liability environment that will discourage companies from selling products in Maryland or contracting with the State.

Lastly, the U.S. Supreme Court recently invalidated key federal tariff authority under IEEPA, leaving unresolved questions about how tariff amounts will be determined or refunded, further illustrating why Maryland should wait for federal action rather than imposing new state-level tariff disclosure requirements.

While we support efforts to connect Maryland businesses with local suppliers and encourage economic growth within the State, those goals can be pursued without imposing a sweeping tariff disclosure mandate that is difficult to administer and enforce. As drafted, the bill places an extraordinary administrative burden on businesses and creates unnecessary legal risk without a clear corresponding benefit to consumers.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report on SB 757**.