



Senate Bill 757

Consumer Protection - Disclosure of Tariffs and Local Sourcing

March 5, 2026

Position: **OPPOSE**

Madame Chair and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

The Restaurant Association of Maryland opposes Senate Bill 757.

This legislation would require businesses to disclose when the price of a consumer good includes a tariff and the amount of that tariff. The bill also requires the Department of Commerce to establish an online Local Sourcing Portal to assist businesses with finding alternative local products.

The foodservice industry often relies on imports for fine international foods and wine. If any of those products are subject to tariffs, the prices from our suppliers will be higher. However, our suppliers do not itemize the tariff portion of the wholesale prices we pay. We do not know exactly how any applicable tariff has affected the price we pay to suppliers. Therefore, it would be virtually impossible to accurately determine and disclose to customers any specific tariff amount.

Back in November, when tariffs were lifted for many food imports, some wholesale prices for products that had arrived in warehouses before tariffs were lifted still included the cost of imposed tariffs.

But given the recent Supreme Court decision on the Trump Administration's use of tariffs under the IEEPA, the intent of this legislation may no longer be relevant.

And for most of the international food and wines that our industry imports, local alternatives are not available. So, that part of this legislation would not be helpful to most of our industry.

Given the lack of information that would be necessary to comply with the requirements of this legislation, we are also concerned about the hefty penalties for violations.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an unfavorable report for Senate Bill 757.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin R. Thompson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Melvin R. Thompson
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs and Public Policy