



Senate Bill 889

Date: March 12, 2026

Committee: Senate Finance

Position: **Unfavorable**

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 889 (“SB 889”) would impose sweeping restrictions on commonly used technologies and business practices that are essential to modern retail operations and workforce management. As drafted, the bill would prohibit the use of electronic shelf labels in food retail establishments and restrict the use of data-driven systems to assist in price setting and wage determination. These provisions would create significant operational challenges for businesses, increase compliance costs, and ultimately harm consumers and workers alike.

Electronic shelf labels are used by retailers to improve efficiency, accuracy, and transparency in pricing. These systems allow businesses to update prices to reflect changes in supply costs, vendor pricing, and promotions while reducing pricing errors that can occur with manual labeling. Prohibiting their use in grocery stores would force retailers to rely solely on outdated manual processes that are more costly, less accurate, and less efficient.

The bill also broadly restricts the use of automated tools and data analytics in price setting. Retailers frequently use technology to analyze supply chain conditions, inventory levels, and market conditions in order to set competitive prices. These systems help businesses manage fluctuating costs and maintain affordable pricing for consumers. By placing broad limitations on the use of these tools, SB 889 could undermine retailers’ ability to respond to market conditions and maintain competitive pricing.

In addition, the provisions restricting the use of data-driven tools in wage determination raise significant concerns for employers across industries. Many companies rely on software and analytics to evaluate market wages, performance metrics, scheduling needs, and operational data in order to make informed compensation decisions. The bill’s sweeping restrictions could unintentionally prohibit widely accepted human resources practices and create uncertainty about what technologies employers may lawfully use. **For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB 889.**