

MARYLAND RETAILERS ALLIANCE

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



HB840 Property Tax - Credit for Commercial Buildings Rented to Small Businesses
Ways and Means Committee
February 17, 2026

Position: Favorable

Background: HB840 would authorize local governments to grant property tax credits for commercial buildings that house small businesses in certain districts.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Alliance strongly supports HB840, which would authorize local governing bodies to grant a tax credit against the county or municipal property tax for commercial buildings that are located in a designated arts and entertainment district or Main Street Maryland community and leased to a small business. Economic development policies like property tax credits can attract new businesses and encourage growth by offsetting operating costs associated with expansion, and specifically targeting the tax credits to arts and entertainment districts and Maryland Main Street communities will particularly promote revitalization in our historic commercial epicenters. As businesses throughout the state continue to face rising operational costs due to a variety of unavoidable factors, these property tax credits are a proactive step that local governing bodies can take to help Maryland businesses thrive.

We would respectfully urge a favorable report on HB840. Thank you for your consideration.