

MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**SB496/HB612 Recovery for the Economy, Livelihoods, Industries,
Entrepreneurs, and Families (RELIEF) Act
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee/House Ways and Means
Committee
Position: SUPPORT
February 2, 2021**

Background: The above bill provides for “coronavirus relief payment” tax subtractions and shields businesses from unemployment experience rating increases due to employee layoffs through no fault of their own.

Written Comments: The Maryland Retailers Association is in support of this legislation for the below reasons:

“Non-essential” businesses, but even businesses considered “essential” applied for and received a variety of grants and loans to keep afloat during the Coronavirus Pandemic. It is important these businesses are not forced to pay taxes on what would otherwise be seen as income and are allowed to subtract these funds on their taxes.

Additionally, businesses, through no fault of their own, were forced to close or had to lay off employees for a variety of reasons. These lay offs should not affect their unemployment insurance experience ratings that will already see massive increases as the state looks to stabilize the solvency of the fund.

With these concerns in mind, we respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB496/HB612.



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