

MARYLAND RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

The Voice of Retailing in Maryland



**HB502 – Sales and Use Tax - Tax-Free Period for Back-to-School
Shopping - Sale of Sewing Items
Ways and Means Committee
February 9, 2022**

Position: Favorable

Background: Expanding the applicability of the annual sales and use tax-free period to certain sewing items used to make clothing if the taxable price of each item is less than \$100; and providing that "sewing items" include the material used to make clothing, fabric, thread zippers, bias tape and elastic, but does not include sewing machines, pins, pin cushions, scissors, or needles.

Comments: The Maryland Retailers Association supports HB502 by expanding back-to-school tax free week to include sewing items. This would create parity for families that sew their own clothing or mend used items for additional use when clothing and footwear items under \$100 are already tax free during this timeframe. This also promotes sustainability by encouraging families to repair rather than replace damaged items. The bill is narrow regarding the types of items it would apply to, limiting any negative impact the State would incur due to lost tax revenue. We recognize the budgetary challenges the state may face in the future and feel the narrow focus takes this into consideration.

We thank the sponsor for reintroducing this issue and urge a favorable report on HB502.