



# Maryland Department of Agriculture

*Office of the Secretary*

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## MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### LEGISLATIVE COMMENT

**DATE: January 16, 2020**

**BILL NUMBER:** SENATE BILL 118

**SHORT TITLE:** LAND USE - ALCOHOL PRODUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL ALCOHOL PRODUCTION

**MDA POSITION:** SUPPORT

#### **EXPLANATION:**

This legislation establishes a specific, authorized definition of “alcohol production” and “agricultural alcohol production” for a local jurisdiction to adopt by local ordinance, resolution, law, or rule.

The definitions established in SB 118 are not a mandate, but will serve as a uniform standard in state law to help county and local governments regulate their own agricultural alcohol producers.

Diversification is key to profitability for many Maryland farmers and producers. Value-added commodities—including beer, wine and spirits—continue to grow in popularity and provide an important source of income for agricultural operations across the state. Creating consistent definitions of these terms ensures that our family farms have the clarity they need when making important business decisions for their farm operations.

This proposal is similar to a 2018 law which established a statewide definition of “agritourism” for adoption by local jurisdictions.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Shirk, Director of Legislation and Governmental Affairs, at [cassie.shirk@maryland.gov](mailto:cassie.shirk@maryland.gov) or 410-841-5886.