



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

The Board of County Commissioners

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February 19, 2021

The Honorable Dereck E. Davis, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Davis:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County to voice our support for **HB 883: Allegany County – Alcoholic Beverages – Transfer and Auction of Licenses**. With support from the State, Allegany County is now home to three breweries. Between this and other economic development opportunities, the County is preparing for a bump in tourism and an increased demand in local businesses. Currently, due to population restrictions, no new Class D liquor licenses can be created in the County. Because of this, new restaurants who wish to serve alcohol must purchase a license from an existing license holder, typically at a markup of tens of thousands of dollars above the \$700 local liquor board fee. This bill proposes to amend the issue in a way that would allow new business owners to invest in Allegany County without entirely devaluing current licenses. This bill also allows the Board of County Commissioners to acquire expired licenses in a similar fashion, so that licenses that are not renewed do not simply disappear forever.

By creating two new Class D licenses and allowing expired licenses to cycle back to the County through public auction, we may incentivize growth while respecting the investments of longtime local establishments. To promote such community-centered economic development in Allegany County, we are respectfully requesting the Committee's **FAVORABLE** consideration of the bill.

Sincerely,

Jacob C. Shade, President
Allegany County Board of County Commissioners