



Testimony offered on behalf of:  
THE GARRETT COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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FAVORABLE:  
HB 1232 – Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits

Economic Matters Committee  
February 19, 2021

On behalf of the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, representing 600 member organizations in Western Maryland, I write to express our opposition to HB 1232 – Alcoholic Beverages – Manufacturer's Licenses and Off-Site Permits.

This legislation would codify Executive Orders (EOs) that were issued during the pandemic to assist Maryland brewers, distillers, wineries and manufacturers of alcohol that were negatively impacted due to mandated closures. These licensed establishments were provided the opportunity to offer sale and delivery of alcoholic beverages to help compensate for the lost revenues due to the mandatory closures.

Many of these manufacturers adjusted their business models and utilized the opportunities through the Executive Orders in an effort to keep from closing their doors. These allowances by the Governor turned out to be a saving grace for numerous businesses that would have otherwise suffered devastating revenue losses.

The pandemic is far from over and the long-term effects on our economy and businesses remains to be seen. As the Executive Orders worked as intended and provided much needed relief for many businesses, the Legislature should codify these EOs into law and continue to assist with the recovery and future development of breweries, distilleries, wineries and alcohol manufacturers in Maryland.

The Chamber respectfully requests a FAVORABLE committee report on HB 1232.

Sincerely,

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