

ANTONIO HAYES
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City

Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 5th, 2021

**Testimony of Senator Antonio Hayes in Support of SB 755: Baltimore City - Alcoholic Beverages -
40th District - Restrictions**

Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee,

Persistent illicit activity outside and around liquor establishments has been cause of fear and concern amongst community members and organizations in the 40th District. **SB 755** seeks to alleviate these concerns and reduce the level of unwarranted soliciting and loitering around liquor establishments by altering the hours of sale for specified alcoholic beverages licensees.

SB 755 is, at its core, a public safety bill. The purpose of the bill is to reduce unwarranted soliciting and loitering around liquor establishments targeted at three specific zones during high crime hours of the day. The bill restricts the sale of alcohol to after 10:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.

This bill was created based on data produced by the Baltimore City Police Department which has shown a high rate of violence and crime after 10:00pm. With a close attention to data, this bill only targets areas within the 40th District with the highest incidents of homicides and shootings identified by the Baltimore City Police Department. **SB 755** seeks to address the violence occurring within our district and act on the public complaints of the community by restricting the hours of operation of liquor stores. This bill only applies to the sale of alcohol, and does not limit licenses and establishments with primary sales of food.

The bill also gives a Class C license and a BD-7 license for two different establishments in the district. Both of these establishments require a Memorandum of Understanding executing within their respective community organizations.

There are a few amendments to this bill that limit the boundaries of the legislation to targeted areas, change the license of one of the establishments' from a Class C to a Class BD7, and includes the memorandum of understanding requirement.

Senate Bill 755 is a public safety bill that will help resolve the safety concerns of residents, small businesses, and police who reside and operate in the area.

I urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 755.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Antonio L. Hayes'.

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District - MD