



To Lead, Advocate, and Connect as the Voice of Business

Senate Bill 205 - Alcoholic Beverages - Sale or Delivery for Off-Premises Consumption

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

March 5, 2021

SUPPORT

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), as the voice of Montgomery County business, supports Senate Bill 205. This bill authorizes restaurants, bars, and taverns to sell and deliver certain alcoholic beverages for off-premises consumption or delivery. The bill also states that a local licensing board may not charge an additional fee to an alcoholic beverages license holder for selling or delivering alcoholic beverages under the bill.

Over the last 11 months, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) has been advocating at the local, state, and federal level on behalf of our members. MCCC has also hosted webinars on best practices in this new COVID-19 world. And through these webinars, and in advocating for our members, we have heard about the importance of pivoting and utilizing new business strategies to survive. One way the restaurant and bar industry has sought to increase business, and to try and stay afloat, was the ability to deliver alcoholic beverages with food sales.

This legislation would allow our restaurants and bars to continue business and helps an industry that remains one of the most impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, the restaurant and bar industry will be one of the last to return to a sense of normalcy. Any additional relief so these key small businesses can survive the public health emergency and continue to employ our neighbors and grow our economy is essential.

It is important to emphasize that restaurant and bars across the state have been delivering alcohol with food safely and without issue since the Governor's Executive Order was issued last year. This bill simply makes that permanent. For the aforementioned reasons, **the Chamber strongly supports Senate Bill 205 and respectfully urges a favorable report.**

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) accelerates the success of our nearly 500 members by advocating for increased business opportunities, strategic investment in infrastructure, and balanced tax reform to advance Metro Maryland as a regional, national, and global location for business success. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent non-profit membership organization and is proud to be a Montgomery County Green Certified Business.

Tricia Swanson, Vice President, Government Relations
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
301-738-0015 www.mcccmd.com