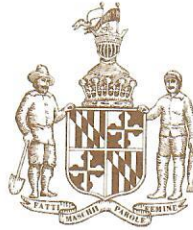


SB1000SupportLetter.pdf
Uploaded by: Senator Bob Cassilly
Position: FWA

ROBERT CASSILLY
CHAIR

J. B. JENNINGS
JASON C. GALLION



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
HARFORD COUNTY DELEGATION

March 16, 2022

RE: **Senate Bill 1000 – Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L License**

Dear Chairman Pinsky:

The Harford County Senators support Senate Bill 1000 as amended. Thank you.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Cassilly", written over a faint circular stamp.

Robert G. Cassilly, Chair
Harford County Senators

SB1000-MdPHA-UNF.pdf

Uploaded by: Raimee Eck

Position: UNF



Mission: To improve public health in Maryland through education and advocacy **Vision:** Healthy Marylanders living in Healthy Communities

SB 1000 Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L License
Committee: EHEA
Position: Unfavorable

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) would like to offer unfavorable testimony regarding SB 1000, a bill to create a new Class L license in Worcester County.

Over the past few years, the public health community has witnessed the steady unraveling of the three-tier system of alcohol licensing and regulation, with much of the pressure through actions of the craft beverage industry. Public health is supportive of small business, but it must be balanced with the appropriate licensing, regulatory, and enforcement structures that are necessary for the particular product being manufactured and/or sold.

The creation of a class L license in Harford County must be considered not in isolation, but in the context of how this would affect the regulatory structure across the state and of alcohol in general. Over the past few years, and particularly during the past two years of the pandemic, regulations have been relaxed to allow manufacturers of alcoholic beverages to sell these products directly to the public.

On its face, this bill essentially turns a manufacturer into a de facto bar, thus significantly creeping again across the 3-tier system. This blurring of the scope of practice between a manufacturer and a retailer has not gone unnoticed and is not supported by the public health frame of alcohol regulation.

We urge an unfavorable report on bill SB 1000.

The Maryland Public Health Association (MdPHA) is a nonprofit, statewide organization of public health professionals dedicated to improving the lives of all Marylanders through education, advocacy, and collaboration. We support public policies consistent with our vision of healthy Marylanders living in healthy, equitable, communities. MdPHA is the state affiliate of the American Public Health Association, a nearly 145-year-old professional organization dedicated to improving population health and reducing the health disparities that plague our state and our nation.

SB1000_UNF_MSLBA_Harford County - Class L License.

Uploaded by: Steve Wise

Position: UNF



**MARYLAND STATE
LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION**

150 E Main Street, Suite 104, Westminster, MD 21157

TO: The Honorable Paul G. Pinsky, Chair
Members, Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
The Harford County Senators

FROM: J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman

DATE: March 18, 2022

RE: **OPPOSE** – Senate Bill 1000 – *Harford County – Alcoholic Beverages – Class L License*

The Maryland State Licensed Beverage Association (MSLBA), which consists of approximately 1,000 Maryland businesses holding alcoholic beverage licenses (restaurants, bars, taverns and package stores), **opposes** Senate Bill 1000.

This legislation would establish a Class L license that can be obtained by any manufacturer (brewery, winery, or distillery), and would allow the manufacturer to sell beer, wine, and liquor and to offer free samples of it. This privilege essentially turns every brewery, winery, and distillery into a bar.

Maryland has a longstanding policy of allowing manufacturers to sell only products which they manufacture at their location. This bill and other alcohol bills before the Committee will change this policy by allowing manufacturers either to sell ALL alcohol products made by anyone or allow them to sell alcohol products made by any Maryland manufacturer. Manufacturers should not be bars under the three-tier system, but that is exactly what these bills or the proposed amendments permit to happen.

Every year now for the better part of the last 15 years, the State's manufacturers have introduced bills that erode the three-tier system of alcohol distribution, under which manufacturers were prohibited from selling alcoholic beverages to customers at all. The erosion began with the offering of small samples of their own products on guided tours but continued with efforts to sell larger and larger amounts. These efforts were presented as a way for the manufacturers to better market their own products. But the biggest change came several years ago when the brewers obtained authority from the Legislature to operate tap rooms. MSLBA resisted this change because we knew what the next step was – manufacturers selling not just their own products but all alcoholic beverages, just like a bar. This legislation represents the predicted next step. This is no longer about marketing their own products, but about being a general retailer of all alcoholic beverages.

MSLBA urges the Committee to reject this legislation. If our distribution system is to have any integrity left at all, this change should not be permitted.

For more information call:

J. Steven Wise
Pamela Metz Kasemeyer
Danna L. Kauffman
410-244-7000