

HB623-Fav.pdf

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Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce

224 N. Washington St.
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February 19, 2024

The Honorable C.T. Wilson
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: FAVORABLE - HB 623 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License

Chairman Wilson and the honorable members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce supports HB 623. HB 623 sponsored by Harford County Delegation if passed will establish a Class L beer and wine license in Harford County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Harford County to issue the license to a holder of a manufacturer's license; authorizing the license holder to hold another license or permit issued by the Board; specifying that the license authorizes the license holder to sell certain beer and wine for on-premises consumption under certain circumstances; requiring the license holder to provide prepackaged snacks; establishing an annual license fee of \$2,000.

The Havre de Grace (HdG) Chamber of Commerce fully supports this legislation. HdG is home to 2 breweries and 1 winery in addition to the many located within the county. Allowing for the crossover of the products encourages more consumers to visit these facilities and experience more of our local beverages. It encourages partnerships between manufacturers with joint promotion. It creates a familiarity with products that benefits the restaurants and retail stores that may sell these products to consumers on a later date.

The HdG Chamber of Commerce believes that this legislation will benefit consumers and manufacturers, and requests the committee give HB 623 a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Heather Deno

Heather Deno, President
Havre de Grace Chamber of Commerce

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

February 19, 2024

The Honorable C. T. Wilson
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee
Room 231, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: House Bill 623 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Wilson and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for House Bill (HB) 623 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages - Class L License. This bill establishes in Harford County a new type of license for facilities to sell or serve beer and wine for on-premises consumption. The bill stipulates that, while not requiring food, prepackaged snacks must be sold or served whenever alcohol is sold.

MDH notes that the terms “food” and “prepackaged snacks” are not defined, and license holders may unwittingly serve potentially hazardous foods without a food service facility license. Serving any foods that require temperature control for safety requires a food service facility license under Title 21 of the Health General Article, which ensures a facility takes proper sanitation and safety measures. To ensure that license holders do not endanger their patrons with food-related illnesses, MDH would appreciate the Committee’s consideration of the attached amendments. While the context of these proposed amendments is familiar to existing businesses (particularly those in the food industry), the amendments will further ensure that new businesses and new alcohol license applicants who do not already serve food are equally as aware of the food service facility requirements as the long-standing members of the business community.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Case-Herron, Director of Governmental Affairs at sarah.case-herron@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

Attachment: Amendment to House Bill 635

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 623
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, starting with “NOT” on line 22 through line 23, inclusive. Substitute: “**REQUIRED TO OFFER OR SELL EITHER:**

(1) FOOD AS A LICENSED FOOD SERVICE FACILITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-305 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE; OR

(2) PREPACKAGED FOODS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE TEMPERATURE CONTROL FOR FOOD SAFETY.”