



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pamela Beidle
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
3 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Senate Bill 736 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Golf Simulator Facility – Letter of Information with Amendments

Dear Chair Beidle and Committee members:

The Maryland Department of Health (the Department) respectfully submits this letter of information with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 736 – Harford County - Alcoholic Beverages Licenses - Golf Simulator Facility. This bill establishes in Harford County a new type of license for golf simulator facilities to sell or serve beer, wine, and liquor for on-premises consumption. The bill stipulates that food must be sold or served whenever alcohol is sold.

The Department notes that the use of the term “food” may allow license holders to 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. While the context of this proposed amendment is familiar to existing businesses (particularly those already in the food industry), the amendment 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. To ensure that license holders do not endanger their patrons with food-related illnesses, the Department would appreciate the Committee’s consideration of the attached amendments.

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

AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 736
(First Reading File Bill)

On page 2, in line 17, after “PREMISES”, insert “IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 21-305 OF THE HEALTH GENERAL ARTICLE”.