



Senate Bill 529

Caroline County—Alcoholic Beverages-Beer, Wine, and Liquor Tasting License

Position: **FAV**

Date: **February 22, 2024**

To: **Finance**

The Caroline County Commissioners **SUPPORT** SB 529. This bill would authorize amendments to the 1-day beer and wine tasting license in Caroline County to include liquor tasting as well. This bill represents a positive step forward in updating and modernizing Caroline County's alcohol licensing regulations to better serve our community's needs, as well as mirror neighboring jurisdictions.

The proposed changes outlined in Senate Bill 529 would allow for the issuance of a 1-day beer, wine, and liquor tasting license in Caroline County. This adjustment reflects the evolving preferences and demands of consumers and businesses in our area, providing them with greater flexibility and opportunities for showcasing a wider range of alcoholic beverages.

The proposed licensing fee of \$50 is both reasonable and affordable, enabling businesses to participate in tasting events without undue financial burden. This fee structure strikes a balance between generating revenue for the county and supporting the growth of our local hospitality industry.

The Commissioners are strong supporters of local business and economic growth. Modernizing our alcohol licensing regulations to accommodate liquor tastings can enhance the vibrancy of our community, support local businesses, and promote responsible alcohol consumption. Therefore, the Commissioners respectfully urge your committee to issue a favorable report on SB 529.

Sincerely,

J. Travis Breeding, President