



# TOWN OF OCEAN CITY

*The White Marlin Capital of the World*

March 12, 2025

Health and Government Operations Committee  
The Honorable Joseline Pena-Melnyk  
240 Taylor House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: State Designations - State Cocktail - Original Maryland Orange Crush

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

I am writing in support of HB-1001 to make the "Orange Crush," a cocktail that originated at the Harborside Bar and Grill in Ocean City, Maryland, the official state beverage of Maryland.

The Orange Crush is more than just a refreshing drink; it has become a beloved symbol of our state's local culture, coastal traditions, and hospitality. Since its creation in 1995 at the Harborside Bar and Grill in West Ocean City, the Orange Crush has grown in popularity, especially along Maryland's Eastern Shore, and has spread across the state and beyond.

The drink, made with freshly squeezed orange juice, orange-flavored vodka, triple sec, and a splash of lemon-lime soda, is a celebration of Maryland's vibrant local ingredients and its coastal lifestyle. Its roots in Ocean City make it a perfect candidate for the state beverage, as it embodies the spirit of Maryland's beach culture, tourism, and local businesses.

Designating the Orange Crush as Maryland's official state beverage would not only honor a drink that has become synonymous with our state's unique identity but also highlight the importance of local businesses like the Harborside Bar and Grill, which continue to contribute to Maryland's economy and tourism industry.

The Mayor and City Council respectfully request your consideration of this HB-1001 and your support to make the Orange Crush the official state beverage of Maryland.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Meehan  
Mayor

**MAYOR**  
Richard W. Meehan

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