



March 11, 2025

The Honorable Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk, Chair  
Health and Government Operations Committee

*RE: House Bill 1001: State Designations – State Cocktail – Original Maryland Orange Crush*

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk and Committee Members,

On behalf of 450 Ocean City hospitality businesses, I am writing to express our support of HB 1001 to name Maryland the home of the Original MD Orange Crush. In 1993, childhood friends, Chris Wall and Lloyd Whitehead opened Harborside Bar & Grill. At the time, both were working at Phillips Seafood Restaurant. When a rustic waterfront bar space became available, the duo seized the opportunity. They took on every role—bartenders, cooks, and servers—bringing their vision to life.

During the winter downtime, they experimented with drink recipes and created this specialty cocktail. Made with fresh oranges, this cocktail is refreshing and delicious in the hot summer sun.

Restaurants all over the East Coast are creating their own versions of the orange crush, however, Ocean City, Maryland, is home to the original Orange Crush. Let's make it an official Maryland State Cocktail. We would appreciate the support of HB1001.

Sincerely,

*Susan L. Jones*

Susan L. Jones  
Executive Director

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