



Maryland Department of Agriculture

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Agriculture | *Maryland's Leading Industry*

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Maryland Department of Agriculture

Legislative Comment

DATE: March 12, 2025

BILL NUMBER: SB 562/HB 1001

SHORT TITLE: State Designations - State Cocktail - Original Maryland Orange Crush

MDA POSITION: FAVORABLE

This legislation designates the original Maryland Orange Crush as the State cocktail. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) supports this legislation as it will enhance value-added agriculture in our State and support local farmers and agricultural producers.

Many of Maryland's 20+ locally owned and operated distillers across the state produce vodka, a primary ingredient in the iconic Orange Crush. Although the oranges are imported, the use of a locally-made vodka infuses the spirit of Maryland agriculture into this hallmark cocktail.

The designation of the Orange Crush as the state cocktail will be embraced by local producers who will promote recipes that include Maryland-made vodka. The bill creates no fiscal burden on the State, but has great potential to boost the local economy for farmers and retailers alike. Additionally, the marketing of the brand "Maryland Orange Crush" could present more opportunities for interstate commerce. Cheers to locally grown and locally concocted craft creations!

MDA appreciates the Committee's consideration and requests a favorable report.

If you have additional questions, please contact Rachel Jones, Director of Government Relations, at rachel.jones2@maryland.gov or 410-841-5886.